



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Chiefs of Staff Discuss Regional Security

JN2808100291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT
28 Aug 91

[Text] Muscat, 28 Aug (WAKH)—Chiefs of staff of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states held the second working session of their extraordinary meeting in Muscat this morning. The session is chaired by Staff Lieutenant General Khamis Bin-Hamid Bin-Salim al-Kalbani, chief of staff of the Omani Armed Forces.

In their second working session, the GCC chiefs of staff will discuss their agenda topics, including the preliminary concepts on the formation of a joint independent GCC force that can maintain regional peace and stability.

The GCC chiefs of staff held their first working session last night.

GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah said the aim of the extraordinary meeting of the chiefs of staff is to discuss the means of realizing self-reliance in maintaining regional security in light of the concepts worked out by the security committee headed by His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman, and turning the principle of self-reliance into reality.

Talks on Joint Security Conclude

JN2808140491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0935 GMT
28 Aug 91

[Text] Muscat, 28 Aug (WAKH)—The chiefs of staff of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states concluded their two-day extraordinary meeting in Muscat today.

Staff Lieutenant General Khamis Bin-Hamid al-Kalbani, chief of staff of the Omani Armed forces, delivered a speech hailing the cordial spirit that permeated the meeting, a spirit greatly helping in the adoption of objective recommendations that will make an effective contribution to future Gulf military cooperation. This cooperation will safeguard the security, stability, and peace to which all aspire.

He highlighted the sincere backing expressed by the chiefs of staff during their meeting for the idea of a joint and independent GCC force. He said: This shows awareness and sense of responsibility inasmuch as Gulf security is the responsibility of the people of the Gulf.

GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah delivered a speech hailing the Muscat meeting, describing it as a successful one. He said it would be followed by other meetings to give substance to the concepts adopted at the meeting on the joint independent GCC force.

Iraq Discusses Blockade With Arab League Chief

JN2808171291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1611 GMT
28 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—Muhammad Sa'id al-Sabbah, minister of state for foreign affairs, today met with the Arab League secretary general in the Libyan city of Benghazi.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on a number of important issues regarding the Arab League's work and the role that the Arab League secretary general can play in demanding the lifting of the unjust economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

Moreover, the minister of state for foreign affairs explained to Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid the danger raised by Security Council Resolution 706 whose passage was facilitated by the brutal powers that dominate the Council.

It is to be recalled that Muhammad Sa'id al-Sabbah is currently visiting Libya as member of the delegation accompanying Taha Yassin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, who is there to take part in the Libyan people's celebrations marking the inauguration of the great manmade river.

During the meeting, the Arab League secretary general asserted that he will visit Baghdad as soon as possible or in September.

He welcomed Iraq's participation in the Arab League meeting due to start in the first half of September with a high-level delegation headed by Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn.

In a statement to the INA correspondent in Baghdad following the meeting, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sabbah described the meeting as positive. He said that the Arab League secretary general asserted the need for lifting the economic blockade on Iraq because of the suffering and grave dangers to the Iraqi people caused by the blockade.

Islamic Affairs

Reportage on Islamic Arab Popular Conference

Group 'Mortal Blow to Colonialism'

E42408183591 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT
24 Aug 91

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Aug (SUNA)—Mr. Zayn al-Din Hasan Zayn al-Din, coordinator of the people's committees in Khartoum, said that the meeting of the General Secretariat of the Islamic Arab Popular Conference [IAPC] comes at a historic turning point for unifying the Arab and Islamic people and mobilizing their energies in order to defend their beliefs, gains, and resources against the imperialist forces that are planning to take over after having broken the international balance.

He said in a statement to SUNA that there must be forces for [word indistinct] the balance in order to safeguard the oppressed peoples. The creation of the IAPC constitutes a mortal blow to colonialism and a distinguished achievement for the forces of change in the Arab and Islamic world.

Media Campaign Against Islam Denounced

EA2508115691 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] The General Secretariat of the Islamic Arab Popular Conference issued a recommendation on the need to embark on a media mobilization campaign to break the media blackout which is being practiced against the Islamic movement.

In its meeting yesterday at Friendship Hall in Khartoum, the General Secretariat denounced the media campaign in the Islamic states against Islam and the Islamic movements, decrying the exceptional measures mounted against the Islamic movements in addition to the constitutional siege against the right to form Islamic parties in the name of secularism, despite the multiparty system which gives freedom. The secretariat also demanded that Western countries stopped their attacks against Islam and smearing it.

Arab, Islamic Conference To Convene in Iraq

JN2708201191 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 25 Aug 91 pp 1, 7

[Excerpt] AL-QADISIYAH has learned that Baghdad, the cradle of civilization and peace, will host the greatest Arab and Islamic conference ever during the second half of September. Hundreds of Arab and Islamic figures will participate.

This Arab and Islamic conference is designed to promote the spirit of unity toward Arab-Islamic integration; to discuss developments in the international arena, Arab interests, especially following the aggressive imperialist-Zionist-Atlantic war against Iraq, and the need to draw up a joint strategy to confront international plans against the Middle East and the entire Arab region; to mobilize support for the Palestinian question; to back all the Arab and Islamic causes in Africa and Asia; to lay the groundwork for the unity of thought and to work out frameworks for unified Arab and Islamic action; and to stress the meanings of steadfastness, triumph, independence, and freedom for the Islamic and Arab nations. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Editorial Views Position on USSR Coup Attempt

PM2808155891 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 23 Aug 91 p 11

[Editorial: "Palestinian Position on Moscow Events"]

[Text] As the tanks that took to the streets of Moscow were moving—aimlessly so it seemed—and took up their positions in front of the official institutions, Western capitals were asking about the nature of the coup and the scale of its effects on so-called "world peace," the East-West conflict, the arms race, and so on.

But in another part of the world—we mean the Middle East—the main question raised by the major parties was: To what extent will the change in the Soviet leadership affect the peace conference scheduled to be convened in October?

Even as the tanks' rattle drowned out every voice, and extensive telephone contacts were being made with Yeltsin by all Western leaders, without exception, we heard statements from Washington and even Moscow, emphasizing that the "peace conference" would be held despite everything.

It was clear that these assertions were over-optimistic and over-confident, especially since the real concern of world decisionmaking centers, especially the White House, was what was happening in Moscow.

And now that the West has been reassured and U.S. President George Bush has relaxed following Mikhail Gorbachev's return to his office in the Kremlin, observers are facing questions both old and new: Will what happened affect the peace conference, with regard to the date set, with regard to the parties participating, or with regard to the scale and nature of Soviet participation?

But, even before we heard such questions, there were signals from Washington that the conference might not be convened before conditions in the Soviet Union have been organized—which could take several weeks, if not months.

Be that as it may, the positive thing which observers have sensed over the past days is movement in several Arab capitals directly concerned with the peace conference.

In Cairo the Palestinian delegation, headed by PLO Executive Committee member Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], held talks with Egyptian officials on the peace conference, Palestinian participation, and the issue of Jerusalem in the negotiations. These talks were being conducted as the short-lived Soviet coup eclipsed everything else.

And while the Palestinian delegation was holding talks in Cairo, King Husayn was holding coordination talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad over the peace conference. Following the talks the Jordanian foreign minister said that Arab states and the PLO might hold a mini-summit in connection with the issue. This means—from our viewpoint, at least—that the Arab parties concerned were serious about and interested in the peace conference and were not waiting for a miracle that the "Soviet coup" might achieve at the last moment.

In this context it is worth citing the official Palestinian position on the sudden change in the Soviet leadership. An official Palestinian spokesman issued a statement which literally said: The PLO, which is bound to the Soviet Union by historic ties of friendship, has followed with great interest the present serious conditions inside the Soviet Union.

While regarding these events as an internal matter, the PLO hopes that its Soviet friends will be able to achieve stability and security so as to guarantee the continuation of the role played by the Soviet Union in support of world peace and peace in the Middle East.

The official Palestinian statement on what happened in Moscow was issued before the leaders of the so-called "committee of eight" backtracked on their decision and decided to dissolve their committee, thus enabling Gorbachev to return to power later.

Finally, we say that Washington and the influential Western capitals should regard Palestinian and Arab rights as they regarded legitimacy and constitutionality in the Soviet Union and Soviet citizens' rights to freedom.

Hitherto we have suffered from double standards and from biased stances toward the peoples' right to determine their own future and toward their right to secure their freedom.

No Conference Position Before U.S. Answers Given

JN2908093191 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
29 Aug 91 p 18

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—A high-ranking Palestinian source has affirmed that the PLO cannot define its position on the proposed peace conference before receiving answers to questions the Palestinian delegation presented to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. These questions deal with Washington's understanding of Israeli withdrawal; its view on Jerusalem, the right to self-determination, the Palestinian refugees' right to return to their homeland, and settlement building; and other issues to be presented to the conference.

The Palestinian source, who asked to remain anonymous, said that the Palestinian position on the peace conference and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation has not yet been defined because the PLO has not received American answers to its questions. The source added that the PLO has a right to obtain these answers, because it is a basic and major party to the solution and because the solution is basically to the Palestine question, which is the essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Palestinian source denied that the PLO has rejected the idea of the joint delegation in order to reject the conference itself. He noted that the recent visit to Jordan by Yasir 'Arafat aimed to discuss the future of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, continue dialogue and consultation, and to form technical and legal joint committees in order to lay down formulas for the future of these relations. And consequently, the source added, there is no problem between Jordan and the PLO, but there is an Arab problem with America and Israel.

The source noted that the PLO has begun to relinquish the expression "the independent Palestinian state." Instead, it is using "right to self-determination" which will lead to confederation with Jordan. And this issue is not a topic for discussion.

The source affirmed that both the Jordanian and Palestinian sides will continue meetings and exchanges of information on the peace conference to define joint formulas for the issues to be presented to the conference when it convenes.

Fatah Official Receives Iranian Envoy in Tunis

LD2808181791 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 27 Aug 91

[Text] While receiving the Iranian charge d'affaires in Tunis yesterday, Brother Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Central Committee of the Fatah movement, stressed the importance of Islamic states offering various kinds of support to the Palestinian Intifadah, especially at this particular time when the Palestinian cause and the Islamic holy places are being subjected to a liquidation conspiracy.

Palestinian-Iranian relations were also reviewed, as well as a number of issues of common interest.

Libya

Egypt's President Mubarak Arrives for Celebration

Al-Qadhafi: Arab Unity 'Inevitable'

LD2808192691 Tripoli JANA in English 0821 GMT
28 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Benghazi, 28 August, JANA—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt arrived at the airport of Benina last evening to take part in the celebrations of the Arab Libyan people with the arrival of the great man-made river water to the dam of Siluq.

A grand reception was reserved to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at the airport. The leader of the revolution was at the forefront of the welcoming party. Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud and Col. Mustafa al-Kharrubi were at the welcoming party. Were there as well, the secretary and members of the General People's Congress, and the secretary and members of the General People's Committee.

The leader of the revolution replied to the questions of the press-men regarding the future prospects of the Arab community in Europe, and said: The development throughout the Arab homeland is supposed to absorb those members of Arab nation who were forced, due to lack of development, to immigrate to Europe, where, in some countries, they are faced with harsh conditions and bad treatment.

Regarding a question on the brotherly relations between the Great Jamahiriyyah and Egypt the leader of the Revolution said that the future steps of the one Arab nation in Great Jamahiriyyah and Egypt will be made by the people masses.

Concerning the Arab unity the leader said that the unity is a historic eventuality. It faces difficulties, foreign conspiracies is a progressive progress. Arab unity is inevitable because we live in the era of the masses. It is the masses themselves who will impose such unity. I do warn anyone who opposes such current. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Meets 'Arafat, Khaddam

NC2808133391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT
28 Aug 91

[Text] Benghazi, 28 Aug (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at his residence in Benghazi this afternoon.

[In another Benghazi-dated report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1318 GMT on 28 August notes: "President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam at his residence in Benghazi."]

Further on 'Arafat Meeting

JN2908064691 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0600 GMT 29 Aug 91

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Benghazi]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Important meetings were held among Arab leaders in Benghazi yesterday in connection with the celebrations held there. The meetings dealt with regional issues.

The most important meeting was the one held between Egyptian and Palestinian Presidents Husni Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat. This meeting lasted approximately two hours; it was held as a result of mediation by the leader of the Libyan revolution.

Another meeting was held between the Egyptian and Sudanese presidents in the presence of Colonel Mu'amar al-Qadhafi. The conferees discussed the efforts to clear the atmosphere between Cairo and Khartoum. According to well-informed sources, the two leaders agreed to end all unresolved problems between the two countries in a future summit meeting to be held between the two leaders in Cairo.

The sources also disclosed that the Egyptian and Palestinian leaders agreed to continue coordinating their efforts to prepare the atmosphere for convening a conference on peace in the region, on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the PLO's right to choose its representatives to the negotiations in addition to rejecting any Israeli claims on Jerusalem and the other occupied territory.

Mubarak briefed the Palestinian president on the results of the contacts Cairo held recently with the U.S. Administration. He also informed the Palestinian president of the contents of the letter Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev sent recently to the Egyptian president in which he affirmed that the Soviet role in convening the peace conference and solving the Palestinian problem will continue.

Meets Chad President, Others

NC2808132091 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received Chadian President Idris Deby at his residence in Benghazi this evening. He also received Yugoslav Vice President Branko Kostic. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa attended the two meetings.

President Mubarak then met with Prince Mut'ib Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi minister of public works and housing; and Shaykh 'Ali Musallam, special adviser at the Saudi royal court.

Meets Leaders, Businessmen

NC2808141091 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Text] President Muhammad Hosni Mubarak today received Djibouti President Hassan Gouled at his residence in Banghazi. The meeting was also attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Djibouti's defense and foreign ministers, and the Djibouti ambassador in Cairo.

President Mubarak next met with the president of Rwanda at a meeting also attended by the two countries' foreign ministers. He then received His Highness Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nahayyan, deputy prime minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. This meeting was also attended by Hamayyid Bin-Nasir al-Uways, UAE minister of electricity and water; Bin-Salim Bin-Rakkad, minister of public works and housing; and Shaykh Faysal Bin-Khalid al-Qasimi, minister of youth and sports. Participating on the Egyptian side were Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Electricity Minister Engineer Mahir Abazab.

President Mubarak has also met with a number of businessmen and public sector officials attending an exhibition of Egyptian products in Banghazi. More than 100 Egyptian factories and firms are taking part in the exhibition, representing various production sectors and displaying things such as consumer and durable goods, foodstuffs, textiles, and ready-made clothes.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has said that during this meeting President Mubarak discussed the purpose of the exhibition, which is to display Egyptian goods of high quality and wide diversity so as to present an accurate image of Egyptian industry, as opposed to the low-quality goods some traders eager for a quick profit wish to transport to Libya. He said that President Mubarak decided to set up this exhibition during a recent tour of several factories in al-'Amiriyyah in Alexandria and selected the city of Banghazi as the venue because it is one of the main cities in the Libyan Jamahiriyyah. The exhibition, he added, was timed to coincide with the inauguration of the great man-made river.

President Mubarak noted that the exhibition was set up in record time and was of a high standard. Brother Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi had expressed his admiration for and encouragement of the Egyptian businessmen during a visit to the exhibition, the president added. President Mubarak stressed the need for harmony between national interests and businessmen's private interests so as to achieve the common good. The president noted that the exhibition will become a permanent one displaying Egyptian products, and marketing will be arranged by an Egyptian firm experienced in this field.

President Mubarak added that Egyptian officials in both the public and private sectors have begun to understand the nature of marketing, which in today's world has

become a science requiring careful study. He noted the need for both sectors to rely on modern marketing techniques rather than the government and for these sectors to be able to operate in a free market and contend with international competition. He added that the role of the state is to establish international contacts which will undoubtedly serve the business sector.

'Arafat Arrives for River Project Ceremony

LD2808183291 Tripoli JANA in English 1620 GMT
28 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Benina, 28 Hannibal [August] JANA/Maghreb Union Pool—The Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, and the accompanying delegation arrived at Benina International Airport to participate in the celebrations of the Libyan Arab people with the arrival of the waters of the great man-made river. [passage omitted]

President Yasir 'Arafat made a statement expressing his happiness for the achievement of the great man-made river project. He said that such project signifies the determination and the will power of the leader of the Great Al-Fatih revolution, and the Arab Libyan people to conquer the impossible.

President Yassir 'Arafat also reaffirmed that all the plots and conspiracies hatched against the Arab nation will fail. The Palestinian people will not let go or leave his land and will insist on his state and its capital—Jerusalem.

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives, Meets Sudan's al-Bashir

JN2808102391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT
28 Aug 91

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Aug (INA)—Sudanese President 'Umar Ahmad al-Bashir yesterday received Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president.

Taha Yasin Ramadan conveyed the greetings of President Saddam Husayn to his brother Sudanese President 'Umar Ahmad al-Bashir. He stressed that his excellency the president and the leadership and people of Iraq take pride in the fraternal Sudanese people's pan-Arab stands, which reflect profound affiliation with Arabism and support for Arab causes.

The Sudanese president asked Taha Yasin Ramadan to convey greetings to President Saddam Husayn and asserted Sudan's unchanging stand on pan-Arab goals, adherence to them, and defending them despite all forms of plotting and aggression.

The Sudanese president commended the Iraqis' efforts to reconstruct what was destroyed by the 30-state aggression—efforts which assert the undefeatable Iraqi power regardless of the savage aggression and methods of destruction.

During the meeting, the two officials discussed bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction with their progress. They stressed joint eagerness to create new domains of cooperation to contribute to the promotion of bilateral relations and to serve the Arab nation's causes.

They also discussed the circumstances the Arab nation is experiencing and the escalating plots against it. They stressed the importance of continued meetings, coordination, and cooperation between brothers with the aim of bolstering the Arab position and confronting the wide-ranging conspiracy which aims to secure domination over Arab territory, wealth, and sovereignty.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, [Iraqi] minister of state for foreign affairs, and Staff Major General al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir, member of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council.

Syrian Vice President Arrives, Hails Project

JN2808165291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Text] Banghazi—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and his delegation arrived in the city of Banghazi, in the Libyan Jamahiriyah, at 1200 today to participate in the Libyan Arab people's celebrations of the inauguration of the first phase of the great man-made river. Khaddam was received at the airport by Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, member of the 1 September Revolution Command Council of Libya; senior Libyan officials; and the Syrian charge d'affaires in Tripoli.

Upon arrival, Khaddam told reporters: I am very pleased to represent Syria and President Hafiz al-Asad on this occasion, which is a historic Libyan and Arab occasion, as this great achievement is not only for Libya, but also for the Arab nation. He added: The implementation of this project under these circumstances indicates the determination of the revolution in the Libyan Jamahiriyah to improve Arab society in Libya. This will also reflect positively on our joint struggle. He added: I express my pleasure again, and in the name of President al-Asad and Syria, I congratulate brother Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, and the people in Libya on the implementation of this great project.

Jordanian Premier Arrives for River Ceremony

JN2808130991 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri arrived in Banghazi, Libya, today at the head of a Jordanian delegation to take part in the official inauguration of the first phase of the giant man-made river in Libya.

Mr. al-Masri will hand a message from his majesty the king to the Libyan leader, Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, in reply to the invitation letter by President al-Qadhdhafi to his majesty. The ministers of labor and health are accompanying the premier on his trip to Libya.

Morocco

King Hassan Receives Kuwaiti Amir's Envoy

LD2408062491 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, flanked by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed, received this afternoon at the royal palace in Skhirat Mr. Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rudan, the finance minister in the Kuwaiti Government and envoy of the Amir of the State of Kuwait.

During this meeting he delivered to His Majesty a message from His Highness the Amir of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Fundamentalist Students Sentenced for Rioting

LD2808210691 Paris French-Inter Radio Network in French 1300 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Text] In Morocco six fundamentalist students were sentenced to three months' imprisonment in Casablanca. They had taken part in riots at the faculty of medicine in July. Nine other students were acquitted in the verdict, which was issued yesterday evening. The trial was held under tight security. Thousands of fundamentalists organized demonstrations outside the court.

Sudan

Coup Reportedly Planned To Eliminate Opponents

NC2808152891 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 25 Aug 91 p 6

[Text] Sudanese military opposition sources reported that the Islamic National Front government arrested several officers on the morning of 21 August on charges of planning to overthrow the government. The sources noted that the fact that the arrest campaign began on 20 August, 24 hours before the coup was allegedly to have taken place, shows that the Islamic Front is panicking and seeking pretexts to arrest anyone whose total loyalty it doubts. The sources added that the Sudanese regime planned the sham coup, deployed tanks and other military vehicles in various areas of Khartoum, and organized a parade in which some armored and paratroop units participated. The regime alleged that the officers who were later arrested had planned to stage the coup during the parade. The sources asserted that the regime is now planning to kill these officers, recalling that 28 officers were executed in 1989 after they had been accused of trying to overthrow the Front. They added that the Front is trying to prolong its hold on power by carrying out Hasan al-Turabi's proposal for arresting and executing some military and civilian figures, thereby eliminating its opponents. They pointed out that the Front had the opportunity to do this while the world was preoccupied with the events in the USSR.

We have learned that those arrested include Staff Colonels Ahmad Khalid, Yahya Jammal, and Mubarak Ahmad Hamid of the Armored Corps; al-Fadil Salih Humaydah of the Signal Corps; 'Abd-al-Karim Tarir of the Officers Affairs Department; 'Abd-al-Karim Kafi from the Military College; and 'Abdallah Muhammad al-Amin of the Paratroop Corps. Also arrested were Lieutenant Cols. Khalid Fadl al-Sayyid, Muhammad Sirr al-Khatm, and Hamid al-Tayyib of the Paratroop Corps. The arrests likewise included several retired officers, including Major General Muhammad 'Abdallah Halifi, Brigadier Gen. Muhammad Ahmad al-Rih, Brig. Gen. Sayyid Hammudah, Col. Mustafa al-Tanni, and Lt. Col. 'Adil Ahmad al-Haj. Civilians al-Amir al-Haj 'Abd-al-Rahman, 'Abdallah Naqdallah, and 'Abd-al-Latif al-Jum'abi were also arrested.

The opposition military sources appealed to international human rights organizations to act promptly to rescue these innocent people the Islamic National Front government intends to put to death.

Al-Bashir, Djibouti Chief Hold Further Talks

EA2808124091 Khartoum National Unity Radio
in English 1500 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] RCC [Revolution Command Council] chairman and prime minister, General 'Umar al-Bashir, and his Djibouti counterpart, Hassan Gouled, held talks this morning in the Republican Palace [words indistinct] to consolidate areas of cooperation between the two countries.

Gen. Bashir said the Sudanese-Djibouti relations were ('cultural and outstanding) with fraternity and cooperation for ages, adding that the revolution has [words indistinct] since its inception to develop these relations in all (fields). Al-Bashir expressed hope that Djibouti will soon open an embassy in Khartoum, explaining that there are various areas of cooperation between the two countries.

Gen. Bashir also expressed hope for conclusion of a trade protocol between the two countries. The talks also covered coordination of conventions [word indistinct] between the two countries on events in the Horn of Africa and the concern of the two sides for the stability of the area [words indistinct].

Meanwhile, President Gouled stressed on the developed bilateral relations in consolidation of security and stability in the Horn of Africa, and the concern over the unity of Somalia. He expressed hope that IGADD [Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development] will be able to address itself to larger areas of concern among member countries.

Official Talks End

EA2808134591 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting
Service Network in Arabic 2145 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] The official Sudanese-Djibouti talks chaired by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, and Hassan Gouled Aptidon, president of Djibouti, ended at Republican Palace at noon today.

Prof. 'Abdallah Deng Nhial, minister of guidance and orientation and acting foreign minister, stated that the negotiations concerned bilateral, economic, and trade relations. He said the two sides stressed the need for action towards maintaining security in the region. He described the negotiations as excellent.

Agreement was reached on forming a joint ministerial commission to bring about liaison between the ministries of each country, and to arrange exchanges of visits by officials of the two countries with a view to exchanging expertise. He said he hoped these negotiations would form a sound basis for the development of relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, adviser to the Political Committee and member of the Sudanese delegation at the talks, stressed the need for Somali unity, to provide Somalia with emergency aid, and to solve its political problems in isolation from foreign conspiracies.

Mr. Bahdon Moumin, the Djibouti foreign minister, said the two sides had discussed bilateral cooperation and ways of promoting and developing it in all areas. The two sides stressed the need for coordination between the two countries to promote the efforts being made to bring about peace and security in the Horn of Africa. The Djibouti minister stressed that both sides shared identical views on this issue.

He added that Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir and President Gouled Aptidon had discussed developments in the Arab world at their meeting, and had stressed their support for the efforts being made to achieve Arab solidarity.

Bahrain

Crops 'Badly Affected' by Gulf War Pollution

JN2708165991 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT
27 Aug 91

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Manama, Aug 27 (GNA)—Crops and produce growing in Bahrain have been badly affected by pollution from the Gulf war.

Fruiting of several crops has been delayed as a result of unusual weather this summer, caused by smoke from Kuwait's blazing oil wells, the Bahraini daily 'GULF DAILY NEWS' quoted Dr. Hamdi 'Ali Nasr, plant protection adviser at the Minister of Commerce and Agriculture as saying.

He said leaves of plants were covered by a greyish, sticky film which has suffocating the plants' lifetime.

"Things are not bad, but they are not good either, said Dr. Nasr.

He said crops of dates, okra, cucumber, cantalope, radish and barbeer, a local vegetable had been affected.

"Plants are being affected in two ways, both of which are preventing enough sunlight from reaching plant cells and completing the crucial process of photosynthesis," said Dr. Nasr.

He said the tiny droplets of sticky substance were affecting most plants, except those grown in greenhouses.

"This thin, greyish layer is clearly visible to anybody," said Dr. Nasr.

"This layer is a mixture of oily substance and dust, which it attracts. This is covering the leaves of plants and preventing the sunlight from reaching plant cells.

"Secondly, there is not enough sunlight this summer because smoke pollution is blocking out sunlight, either way, plants are simply not getting enough sunlight.

He said farmers had been advised to take care and keep their plants clear of the grey film.

"People eating the produce of these plants should also be careful. If the fruit of vegetable is sticky, then they should wash with a little bit of soap and water."

"Right now the effect is not severe, but if the pollution problem continues for another year or so it may damage the plant," said Dr. Nasr.

He said authorities were preparing for anticipated problems with the agricultural season coming up in winter.

"We could get black rain or acid when our rainy season starts in December, although we don't expect this to happen because there will be much less smoke in the air by then," said Dr. Nasr.

He said they were expecting an increase in the insect population because of the mild summer.

"The population of insects usually drops in July-August but because of the cool weather we expect more insects in winter," said Dr. Nasr.

Kuwait

Iraqi Attempt To Recover Babiyan Weapons Foiled

NC2908062891 Paris AFP in English 0440 GMT
29 Aug 91

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 29 (AFP)—Forty-five Iraqi soldiers were taken prisoner on the tiny Kuwaiti island of Babiyan late Wednesday in an apparent attempt to recover weapons left behind last February, Kuwaiti officials said Thursday.

The officials said 80 soldiers landed on the uninhabited island, just off the Iraqi coast, but were overcome by Kuwaiti forces, and about 35 Iraqis escaped. The officials would not say whether there had been gunfire or casualties.

The islet is under the administration of the United Nations cease-fire observers.

More Details on Attempt

NC2908102191 Paris AFP in English 0813 GMT
29 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait City, Aug 28 [date as received] (AFP)—Kuwaiti authorities arrested 45 Iraqi soldiers from a contingent of more than 80 that landed Wednesday on the Kuwaiti island of Babiyan, an official statement said here.

The Kuwaiti Army is currently searching the area for the remaining Iraqis who managed to escape.

In New York, Kuwaiti United Nations Ambassador Muhammad Abu al-Hasan called the incursion a "clear violation of the (Gulf war) cease-fire" agreement and demanded immediate action from the U.N. Security Council.

Al-Hasan said the Iraqis had probably landed on the island, the southern point of which is just 50 kilometers (30 miles) from Kuwait City, to retrieve weapons and ammunition they had abandoned after being defeated by U.S.-led forces in February.

Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dhari 'Abdallah al-Uthman described the landing as an "aggression" that Kuwaiti forces had managed to foil.

But he did not say if shots had been fired or if the incident had produced any casualties.

The Interior Ministry reported Tuesday that Kuwaiti police had killed one Iraqi and arrested 14 others who had recently tried to infiltrate Kuwait.

Despite U.S. insistence that Iraq is no longer a military threat in the region, Kuwait authorities insist that as long as President Saddam Husayn remains in power, Iraqi troops remain capable of repeating their invasion of a year ago.

Landing 'Strongly Protested' at UN

LD2808203591 London KUNA in Arabic 1917 GMT
28 Aug 91

[Text] United Nations, 28 Aug (KUNA)—Kuwait strongly protested the infiltration by 80 Iraqis on to Kuwait's Bubiyan Island early this morning to the United Nations today. The Kuwaiti permanent representative at the United Nations, Muhammad 'Abu al-Hasan, described this incident, at a meeting with the president of the Security Council, as a violation of the cease-fire. Abu al-Hasan said that 45 of the infiltrators had been apprehended, while the rest are still hiding in the island, situated northeast of the city of Kuwait.

Abu al-Hasan told Ayala Lasso, the president of the Security Council, that "This serious development reveals the aggressive Iraqi intentions against security and peace in Kuwait, and indicates that Iraq has not yet learned its lesson."

The Kuwaiti representative called on the Security Council to act quickly to prevent this irresponsible behavior and to maintain peace and security in the region.

The president of the Security Council expressed his concern and anxiety over the Iraqi conduct, and promised to contact the rest of the Security Council members and to take the necessary measures.

National Council Backs Security Accord With U.S.

PM2708095891 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 23 Aug 91 pp 1, 7

[Abdallah al-Shamri report: "National Council Supports Security Agreement With United States"]

[Excerpt] Kuwait—Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met yesterday morning with the National Council board, which comprises the council's speaker and the heads of its committees, to discuss the broad outlines of the security agreement between the State of Kuwait on the one hand and the United States and Britain on the other. Shaykh Salim al-Sabah announced after the meeting that the council unanimously supported the measures that the government is taking and that it deems correct for the urgent implementation of the agreement.

In a statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT Shaykh Salim al-Sabah pointed out that his meeting with the National Council board took place on the instructions of His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister. He added that heads and members of the Defense, Internal, Legislative, Legal, and Foreign Affairs Committees attended the meeting. The broad outlines of the agreement were discussed. He pointed

out that valuable points were raised, "and I listened to relevant views raised by the brother participants."

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that "the council committee unanimously supported and backed the government in taking whatever measures it deems right for the urgent implementation of the security agreement. [passage omitted]

National Council Discusses Security Situation

NC2708193191 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1700 GMT 27 Aug 91

[Statement issued by the National Council in Kuwait on 27 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Those who conduct their affairs by mutual consultations. [Koranic verse]

The National Council met in a regular session this morning, Tuesday, 13 Safar 1412 Hegira, corresponding to 27 August 1991, under the chairmanship of Speaker 'Abd-al-'Aziz Shihab al-Masa'id.

The council discussed the report submitted by the Internal Security and Defense Council. It approved the report, after which the government asked that the session become closed.

The interior minister then delivered a statement reviewing the security situation in the country and the measures taken by the Interior Ministry to safeguard the safety and security of the homeland and the citizens. The council members discussed the statement and made several observations and proposals aimed at promoting the achievement of the desired goal; namely, creating an atmosphere of security, stability, and confidence in the country.

The council confirmed its support for the government's security policy. It noted the need to review existing laws and regulations and to strengthen the security apparatus by meeting its material needs and promoting its most capable personnel. This will facilitate the detention of those who have harmed Kuwait through collaboration with the treacherous occupier and enrollment in the so-called Iraqi Popular Army.

The council called for taking all necessary measures to implement the slogan of every citizen is vigilant. The council called on all citizens to be on their guard for subversive rumors disseminated by the fifth column. In this way, Kuwait will remain for ever an oasis of security and stability for all honorable people. And say: Work righteousness. Soon will God observe your work, and His Apostle, and the believers. [Koranic verse]

Ministry: 14 Iraqi 'Infiltrators' Arrested 27 Aug*LD2708162791 London KUNA in Arabic 1317 GMT 27 Aug 91*

[Text] Kuwait City, 27 Aug (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Interior Ministry said today that one of its border patrols arrested a group of Iraqis trying to infiltrate into Kuwait. The ministry said in a statement received by KUNA that the Kuwaiti patrol police managed to arrest fourteen Iraqis, including one woman, boarding a taxi after an exchange of fire. The statement said the exchange of fire resulted in the death of one of the infiltrators, who were caught in possession of two pistols, two chargers, and 35 bullets. The ministry did not specify the time of the incident in its statement, but it said the Iraqi infiltrators were referred to the competent authorities for interrogation.

Pressure on Iraq for POW Release To Continue*LD2808094991 London KUNA in Arabic 1147 GMT 27 Aug 91*

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 27 Aug (KUNA)—Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member-states promised to do whatever they can to contact Arab and Islamic states and the rest of the world to continue the pressure on the Iraqi regime to release the Kuwait POWs. In an interview with KUNA today, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim added that the leaders of GCC member-states expressed that the Kuwaiti POWs are their own sons and that the efforts should continue until the UN Security Council Resolutions in this regard are implemented and the Iraqi regime complies with them. He said that he handed the leaders of the GCC member-states lists containing the names of 2473 Kuwaiti prisoners who the Iraqi authorities are still procrastinating in releasing. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question regarding what has been so far achieved by UN committee charged with the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border, Shaykh Salim al-Sabat al-Salim said that this committee meet in September to reach final decisions. We have sent delegates from Kuwait to supervise the operations of the demarcation of the border in coordination with the competent technical committee specializing in this issue. He added: We are trying to finalize this issue as soon as possible despite attempts by Iraq to evade attending the meetings set for the demarcation of the border. In reply to a question about Iran's wish to hand back the Kuwaiti civilian aircraft and on Kuwaiti-Iranian relations, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim said that Iran is a state that has an old history and it knows that these aircraft are Kuwaiti. It is true that these aircraft arrived in Iran via Iraq, but Iran knows that Iraq stole these aircraft from Kuwait, therefore, Iran cannot approve of this behavior by Iraq. He also said: We have good relations with Iran. We are Iran's neighbor, and proceeding from Islam and good-neighborliness and out of a desire to consolidate cooperation between us, these

aircraft will be handed back. Concerning the development of the situation in the Soviet Union, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim said that what has happened has shaken the entire world. [passage omitted]

Malaysian Official Urges More Imports to Kuwait*BK2808100591 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0913 GMT 28 Aug 91*

[From Azman Ujang]

[Text] Kuwait City, Aug 28 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Kuwait's traders have been urged to source more of their manufactured imports from Malaysia which now supplies the world markets with quality and competitively priced products.

Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said Malaysian industries could supply manufactured products such as electrical appliances, textiles and clothings, construction and building materials, foodstuffs, furniture and shoes of high quality and at competitive prices.

"We will strongly focus our marketing efforts in Kuwait," he said at a dinner hosted by the Kuwaiti business community here Tuesday.

Ghafar is here with a 48-member business group to explore opportunities for the Malaysian private sector in Kuwait's reconstruction.

Ghafar, who will leave for Iran Thursday on a four-day investment promotion mission, said at present the bulk of Kuwaiti investment in Malaysia was done through the Kuwait Investment Office (KIO), the emirate's international investment arm. This reflected Kuwait's confidence in the Malaysian economy, he added.

He said the two-way trade totalled U.S.\$98 million in 1989 but due to the United Nations trade embargo following the Gulf war, last year's trade only amounted to U.S.\$47 million.

In 1989, Malaysia imported crude oil and refined petroleum worth U.S.\$79 million and exported air-conditioners, palm oil, television sets and household electrical equipment to Kuwait.

Yemen**President Salih Receives 'Arafat Message***JN2708125391 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Aug 91*

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, today received a message from his brother, struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine. The message concerns developments in the Palestine question and the Arab and international developments of interest to our Arab nation.

Foreign Ministry Denies Attack on Bubiyan Island

JN2908110491 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
First Program Network in Arabic 1047 GMT 29 Aug 91

[Text] An official source at the Foreign Ministry told INA the following: News agencies reported that Kuwait's permanent representative to the United Nations claimed that a number of armed Iraqis, supported by 12 warships, attacked Bubiyan Island. Reports added that the Kuwaiti under secretary met with ambassadors of various countries to discuss what he termed the Iraqi aggression. Furthermore, Kuwait lodged a complaint with the Security Council.

We would like to affirm that these claims are sheer lies and slanders, because our forces are conducting no military activities in the area. Plus, the area itself has not been under our control since the aggression against the country. There are many international observers there whose main task is to monitor the cease-fire.

The Iraqi authorities—under the known circumstances—do not maintain any presence in this area as well as in other areas in the country. Therefore, it is a resort for outlaws such as smugglers, terrorists, and agents for foreign forces. The Kuwaiti authorities are fully aware of this fact, and they know that a great many boats used to bring outlaws and infiltrators from the east. They should have stopped making empty allegations that only reflect wicked intentions.

[Dated] 29 August 1991.

Landing Charges 'Pure Lies'

NC2908123691 Paris AFP in English 1206 GMT
29 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 29 (AFP)—Iraq on Thursday denied Kuwaiti allegations that Iraqi troops had tried to land on the Kuwaiti island of Bubiyan this week and said its forces were not present in the region.

An official source with the Foreign Ministry, quoted by the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, dismissed the charges as "pure lies".

"Our forces are not in the region, which has not been under our control since the aggression against Iraq."

Kuwait on Wednesday said its troops had captured 45 Iraqi soldiers as they approached Bubiyan Island and were searching for another 40 or so who had managed to escape.

"Several international observers are in this zone and their main mission is to ensure that the cease-fire (ending the Gulf war) between Iraq and Kuwait is respected," the source said.

"The Kuwaiti authorities are aware of a number of ships carrying bandits and infiltrators from the east that land in this area. For that reason, they would do well to put an

end to these accusations that only reveal their evil intentions," the Iraqi source said.

Spokesman Rejects 'False Claims' on Repatriation

JN2808183291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1732 GMT
28 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—Iraq holds Kuwaiti authorities responsible for delaying the repatriation of Kuwaitis, for their failure to cooperate properly with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and also for their limitless delay in completing the scrutiny of their papers.

In a statement to INA, a Foreign Ministry spokesman reiterated Iraq's readiness to hand over all Kuwaitis in Iraq to the Kuwaiti authorities through the ICRC. The spokesman urged the world community and all humanitarian and international organizations to put pressure on the Kuwaiti authorities so that the Kuwaitis may be handed over and the exploitation of this issue for media purposes and dishonest ends will stop.

The spokesman added: Since the end of the Gulf war, Kuwaiti officials have been claiming that Iraq is holding thousands of Kuwaitis and other foreign nationals and preventing them from returning home. This issue has been exploited dishonestly for media purposes. This exploitation was partly reflected in the message dated 17 July 1991 addressed to the president of the Security Council by Kuwait's permanent representative to the United Nations.

The spokesman went on to say: The Kuwaiti authorities are well aware that they are the only ones responsible for delaying and slowing up the process of their repatriation.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman declared that Iraq has registered all Kuwaitis in Iraq with the ICRC and asked the latter to mediate with the Kuwaiti authorities to secure their repatriation. However, the ICRC apologized, saying that the authorities are using dilatory tactics and failing to respond favorably as the situation dictates, since the issue is that of responding to the requests of Kuwaitis to return home, the spokesman added.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman explained that the Iraqi authorities have repatriated 6,328 Kuwaitis and five individuals of other nationalities under ICRC supervision since 4 March 1991. He added: The ICRC mission registered 3,400 Kuwaitis, making up 606 families and 159 individuals. As for Kuwait, it only agreed to repatriate 170. It is attempting to delude the Arab and world public into believing that Iraq is holding a large number of Kuwaitis in custody.

The spokesman indicated that the ICRC contacted the Kuwaiti authorities regarding all the Kuwaitis in Iraq to secure approval for their repatriation. The spokesman added: However, they have not approved the Kuwaitis' repatriation on the pretext that scrutiny procedures have

not been completed. This refutes their false claims that Iraq does not allow the Kuwaitis in question to return home.

Concluding his statement, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said: We declare and reiterate that we are ready to hand over all Kuwaitis in Iraq to the Kuwaiti authorities through the ICRC.

Spokesman Reacts to Velayati Statements

JN2808190091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT
28 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—A spokesman at the Foreign Ministry today declared that Iraq would like to have permanent and comprehensive peace and relations of good neighborliness with Iran within the framework of respect for sovereignty, national independence, regional security, and noninterference in internal affairs.

Reacting to statements by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in an interview published in the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI last Sunday, the spokesman said that on 14 August 1990 Iraq had proposed to Iran an integrated and comprehensive plan to realize permanent and total peace on the basis of the peace plan in Security Council Resolution 598 of 1987. However, Iran did not respond to the abovementioned proposal and caused a big setback in the march to normalize relations between the two countries.

Following is the text of the statement:

In reaction to the statements made by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in the interview published in the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI on Sunday, 25 August, and carried by AFP, in which he said that the UN secretary general would soon visit Tehran for talks on various subjects, especially war reparations to Iran, a spokesman at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry has told INA the following:

Iraq proposed to Iran on 14 August 1990 an integrated and comprehensive plan to establish total and permanent peace on the basis of the peace plan in Security Council Resolution 598 of 1987. However, Iran did not respond to the abovementioned proposal and caused a big setback in the march to normalize relations between the two countries after interfering militarily and urging saboteurs to cross the border to destroy Iraq's cities, installations, and infrastructure, killing defenseless citizens and taking advantage of the circumstances left behind by the aggression of the alliance forces on Iraq on 17 January 1991.

Iran continued to behave in its previous selective manner to guarantee what it believed to be in its interest. It also continued to ignore Iraq's legitimate views. This is the context within which the Iranian foreign minister's statement comes. If Iran believes that it can exploit Iraq's siege circumstances to realize illegal gains, it should realize that this is a great delusion. Iraq is eager to

establish a comprehensive and permanent peace and relations of good neighborliness with Iran within the framework of respect for sovereignty, national independence, regional security, and noninterference in internal affairs. Iraq's offer of 14 August 1990 is still open and waiting for Iran's answer.

Opposition: Troops Preparing Attack on Shiites

AU2808135491 Paris AFP in English 1332 GMT
28 Aug 91

[Text] Geneva, Aug 28 (AFP)—Baghdad has deployed thousands of troops outside the southern Iraqi marshes and is preparing to attack Shiite Muslim opponents holed up there, an Iraqi opposition leader said here Wednesday [28 August].

Three Army divisions have been sent to join Iraqi forces posted just north of the marshes in preparation for an attack, Ayatollah Mohammad Bakr al-Hakim, chief of Iraq's Shiite Muslim opposition, said at a press conference. The opposition leader, who is said to be close to Iran, called on the international community to do everything to "stop the massacre" that he said was being prepared in this region.

There was no independent confirmation of the report.

Hakim said the population of the marshes is normally about 300,000 people, but that it rose to 500,000 following the Shiite-led uprising against Baghdad in March.

During a meeting in Switzerland Tuesday, the ayatollah asked U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to create a demilitarized zone in the area.

Claims of Government Attack

NC2808151391 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellion
Iraq in Arabic 1420 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Text] Pursuing its wickedness and exploiting the international preoccupation with events in the Soviet Union, the treacherous regime seized the opportunity to continue its terrorist acts against Iraqi Shiite Muslims in the marshlands of southern Iraq.

The regime launched a large-scale military campaign in the marshlands of al-Nasiriyah last week, using helicopter gunships, which strafed peaceful villagers in their homes. The criminal regime also opened long-range artillery and heavy weapons fire in the al-'Amarah area, killing and wounding old people, women, and children.

While sharing with our brothers—the inhabitants of the marshlands and those who have taken refuge there—these tragedies and misfortunes caused by the murderous and renegade regime, we call on the United Nations and human rights and other international organizations to go to these areas as soon as possible to investigate these incidents and expose the Saddam's crimes against our kinsfolk Shiite Muslims in southern Iraq.

Army Officers in Irbil Preparing for 'Uprising'

NC2808133691 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi
Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Text] A group of senior officers has detained various officials of the ruling Ba'th Party in Irbil. Informed sources have reported that the communications center in the city is no longer under the control of the regime's officials, adding that certain high-ranking officers in Irbil are currently preparing for an uprising against the tyrant and his immoral regime.

BABIL Cited Accusing CIA of Plotting

JN2908091391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT
29 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—The newspaper BABIL accused the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency [CIA] of planning all the negative aspects and the human tragedy in Iraq in order to topple its political system.

In an article today, the paper talks about the basic pillars on which Former U.S. President Truman founded that intelligence agency. It points out that the Congress has clearly admitted in a report submitted to President Lyndon Johnson that the first task of the CIA is to propagate the United States' policy and objectives.

The paper says the so-called dirty trick concept in the U.S. policy is linked to the general line of each of the CIA's operations, detailed by Galula [name as received] in his book "Counterrevolutionary War," which are based on introducing rebellious methods and long-range conflict in order to achieve certain goals that would finally lead to the toppling of the existing regime in the target country that is hostile to the U.S. political line.

BABIL reviews a number of methods employed by the CIA in the target country as specified by its theoreticians. These include destroying the industrial and economic installations, preventing the establishment of a national industry, destroying the agricultural fields, and imposing economic blockade under fabricated excuses and pretexts. In order to achieve their objectives, CIA agents also resort to arson, explosions, spreading contagious and infectious diseases, stirring sectarian fighting and racial discrimination, igniting side conflicts, intellectual sabotage, media instigations, and plotting to assassinate officials and prominent figures.

The paper draws the attention of observers to the fact that the events seen in Iraq over the past few months reveal that these methods have been applied against it in one way or another, and under various excuses and pretexts, in order to achieve other goals, at head of which is to impose colonial hegemony over it and make it submit to the U.S.-Zionist schemes.

Writer Criticizes Calls for Normalization

JN2908080591 Baghdad AL-IRAQ in Arabic
27 Aug 91 p 3

[By 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin: "Who Is Practicing One-Upmanship?"]

[Text] In order that people know who practices one-upmanship, who fishes in troubled waters, and who opportunistically tries to build his personal glory on the woes and difficult circumstances of his people, it is enough to note—and this is no secret—that this is the era of the United States and its unilateral decisionmaking.

This is the time of ecstasy and self-confidence for U.S. agent rulers, and for the elements that call themselves opposition, unembarrassedly wearing the garment of democracy and human rights—as if people were not aware of their, or their (parties'), true nature.

The Iraqi people are besieged by the entire world and they are threatened by the superpowers that make decisions unilaterally, especially the United States. Conspiracies are continuing in full swing and never before have the hopes of local reactionaries been as great as they are today. It is no bravery for one who burned incense throughout his life to stop suddenly to curse the incense, its makers, and its burners because the revolution is now facing serious challenges and because prices of reactionary shares have risen in the political slavery market. The brave man, these days, is the one who stands by his people as a dignified man.

By God, conversion from burning incense to cursing the incense burners is opportunism itself.

We are not surprised that many people, who rushed to the doors of the revolution with praise and commendation—when this was rewarded by cars, gifts, and posts—are now either silent or criticizing the people and their achievements or the revolution and its principles and policy, at a time when writing has become a daily struggle, a responsibility, a risk of the future and the family, and martyrdom at any moment.

Who said the revolution does not want restoration of relations with the United States?

The revolution did not break off these relations for no reason, nor did it seek to sabotage them. The revolution does not practice one-upmanship. This is first.

Moreover, the United States is a superpower, whether we like it or not, and establishing relations with it is not a supererogatory performance. This is second.

And third, Iraq was eager for balanced relations with the United States. And we are not going to use the word "balanced" in a general sense, without clarification.

We have sought diplomatic relations and consultations on political issues of concern to the two countries. We sought economic relations based on equality, not exploitation. We wanted cultural relations. And we even tried

to change the United States' position on the Palestine question so that it moves toward Arab right; we were not hoping that it would become identical to the Arab position because we realize that every country has its circumstances, interests, and reasons for adopting certain positions.

After the Kuwait crisis, we wanted the United States, before anybody else, to understand the legitimate motives of the 2 August decision, and we unilaterally tried to reach with it a peaceful solution that spares us and the region the evils of war.

The released official documents stress a host of facts:

First, the United States incited Kuwait's shaykhs to destroy Iraq's economy through smuggling of currency and pumping of huge amounts of oil onto the international market to reduce prices. It encouraged Kuwait's rulers to encroach on our border and steal our oil fields.

Second, the documents show in no uncertain terms that the United States encouraged Kuwait's rulers not to solve the pending problems with Iraq and insisted that they adhere to their hostility toward Iraq and to their conspiracy against Iraq's security, sovereignty, and economy.

Third, everybody now knows that the United States has stood firmly—to use a communist expression—against a peaceful solution to the crisis, and that it pushed this crisis toward war.

Fourth, The United States attacked our Army and citizens, bombed civilians, and damaged economic facilities.

Fifth, the United States is leading the economic blockade, drafted the ill-reputed UN Security Council resolutions, and opposes any attempt to lift the siege imposed on our people or normalize relations between Iraq and its brothers, neighbors, and other countries, including the United States itself. Does the United States then deserve to be thanked and should we kneel in submission on its doorstep?

Thus, it becomes apparent that raising the subject in such a way which suggests that Iraq insists on maintaining tense relations with the United States without any valid justification not only contradicts the truth, but also constitutes a deliberate false accusation against our government. It also implies accusations that we do not understand politics, know how to manage crises, or realize where our people's interests lie; and that we need a "little writer" or a "little female writer" to teach us that politics is the art of attaining what is possible and that the people deserve to be loved.

That's all. So why this clamor? Why do we have these sensational subtitles, introductions based on fantasia, and the fanciful images, as if the call to restore relations with the United States now means the greatest triumph, while in fact it is a sign of cowardice in these circumstances in particular?

Some people have either started to search for fame at any cost by following the logic of "run against the tide and you will become known," or are seeking other ends, including, among others, raising the issue of whether the revolution will continue to exist or not on the pages of newspapers to revive the hopes of the reactionary elements, which were confronted by the solid wall of the people's unity; the Armed Forces' struggle; and the leadership's wisdom, courage, and skill. Or do these people want to tell the big powers that their objective to destroy the people and leadership of Iraq has finally reached the pages of Iraqi papers? These people may also want to tell the Americans before it is too late that they are among those who signalled the restoration of ties with them, and that this good deed of theirs should not be forgotten in the future. Maybe it is only because, as one of these people has imagined, attacking 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin will make her a good agent to sell McDonald's hamburgers to U.S. soldiers when they arrive, God forbid.

Some people, whose good intentions I doubt, did not think that restoration of ties with the United States is a basic part of the state's higher policy. Raising such an issue has certain conditions, at head of which is that the United States should apologize to the people of Iraq for the crimes it has committed against them; that the United States should lift the blockade imposed on medicine and food; that it acknowledges that the Iraqi is the master of his own country and would not accept the sovereignty of any other; and, most importantly, that it understands that we do not accept a series of concessions which will lead to the division of our country, undermining its sovereignty, and sacrificing the people's dignity and then wait for the United States' approval which may not come, like some people have done, and to be frank, like the Soviets have done.

I say this so that none of the agents and enemies would think that what has been published is an expression of a state of suffocation reached by Iraq, voiced by a hallucinating and exhibitionist writer trying to imitate Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal without having either the skill or the right.

We are building what has been damaged by the aggression. We have completed the major and most important part with tremendous success. We fight the blockade with our people's sacrifices and creativity to obtain what would keep us alive. We have crushed the sedition in its cradle and expelled from our ranks every treacherous agent and misled hooligan. We are strong with our principles, which we will not abandon.

If the United States or anyone else wishes to normalize relations with us, we say: Welcome. We understand the facts in our world, but we will not abandon our sovereignty or national interests in return for any relations. This is what the United States must understand, and this is what we say at this circumstance in particular, and not in any other circumstance. If we belong to the people who accept this [abandonment of principles] there would

not have been this hostility between us and the United States in the first place. This, as I personally see it, is our position and any attempt to bypass our people's solid position constitutes oneupmanship against the interests of the people and for the benefit of their enemies.

Have I delivered the message? God, be my witness.

Memo Condemns U.S. U-2 'Spying Operations'

JN2708175691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1718 GMT
27 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Aug (INA)—Iraq strongly condemned U.S. spying operations in Iraqi airspace.

In a letter to the UN secretary general today, Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn revealed that for the third time, a U-2 spy plane entered Iraqi airspace from Saudi airspace last Saturday [24 August] and flew over many Iraqi cities, villages, and hamlets on the pretext of conducting a survey for the UN special committee. He explained that the overflight lasted four hours, after which the plane returned to Saudi airspace.

In his letter to Javier Perez de Cuellar, the foreign minister reiterated that the plane's mission oversteps the special committee's powers, as specified by UN Security Council Resolution 687.

Ahmad Husayn said that the U.S. plane is carrying out its activities by force and intimidation, a matter which contradicts with the principles and objectives of the UN Charter and violates the most basic rights of the Iraqi Republic, an independent, sovereign state and a UN founding member.

The foreign minister described the U.S. transgressions as a dangerous and repeated precedent against UN member states' sovereignty, territorial integrity, and airspace inviolability.

'Neglect' of Protests Criticized

JN2708181091 Baghdad INA in English 1743 GMT
27 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 27, INA—Iraq has strongly protested and condemned Saudi Arabia's permitting the use of its territories and airspace as a springboard for repeated aggression on Iraq.

The Iraqi delegate to the Arab League today handed over a memorandum to the League Secretariat informing it that the American spy plane (U-2) entered the Iraqi airspace last Saturday [24 August] coming from Saudi Arabia and flew for four hours over several Iraqi cities and villages before heading back towards Saudi Arabia.

The memo said that neglect of Iraqi protests would create a grave precedent in Arab relations unless the Arab League and member states would move for putting an end to such dangerous situation.

Press Says Peace Conference, U.S. 'Trap' Rejected

JN2708110591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0706 GMT
27 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Aug (INA)—Two Iraqi newspapers stressed that the settlement conference expected to convene next October under the supervision of the United States will be no more than a capitulation conference [words indistinct] no different in form and content than the Camp David accords.

In their editorials today, the newspapers AL-THAWRAH and AL-'IRAQ express Iraq's firm adherence to its principled stands toward liberating Palestine and retrieving the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says it is naive and stupid to believe that the United States will be seriously interested in implementing the resolutions of the Security Council and the United Nations on the Arab-Zionist conflict.

AL-THAWRAH adds that what preoccupies and really interests Bush is securing safe borders for the Zionist entity and guaranteeing the continued immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine under the [words indistinct] of keeping the technical gap between the Arabs and Israel wide by hindering any serious Arab effort to learn and develop technically.

The newspaper notes Iraq's stand, its adherence to its firm policy, pan-Arab commitment, and deep belief in the unity of the Arab nation's battle against the imperialist-Zionist alliance. The paper reiterates that Iraq considers the Palestine question its first pan-Arab cause, as the prime minister said.

It adds that this is not the first time Iraq's leadership publicizes its stand on the Palestine question so clearly. It is also not the first time it warns against the dangers of the dimensions of the imperialist Zionist scheme which is to be imposed on the Arab nation under the guise of a peaceful settlement.

AL-THAWRAH adds that Iraq, throughout the march of the 17-30 July Revolution, was eager to affirm its firm and principled stand regarding the issue of liberating Palestine and regaining the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people. This stand was one of the major causes that pushed the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist alliance to wage an aggression against it. The U.S. Administration is trying to exploit the results of this aggression to liquidate the Palestine question and implement its capitulationist scheme.

The newspaper recalls the U.S. Administration's stand by and support for the Zionist entity in implementing its aggressive schemes, as well as its rejection of the resolutions issued by the Security Council and the United Nations on the Palestine question.

It says: It is no longer a secret that the strategic cooperation agreement between Washington and Tel Aviv has elevated relations between them to new and advanced heights of political, military, and economic alliance where it has become impossible for the United States to accept implementing the Security Council resolutions on the Palestine question.

It adds that the most one expects from the settlement conference under the supervision of the U.S. Administration, in the absence of a balance of power in the international arena and with the U.S. single-handed way of dealing with the regional and international affairs and causes, is for the Bush Administration to do its utmost to impose capitulation on the Arabs and realize a disgraceful settlement, no different in form and content than the Camp David accords.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Therefore, Iraq is concerned to reiterate its stance and announce that it will not recognize any of the results the U.S. peace conference might achieve.

AL-'IRAQ newspaper emphasizes that the peace conference, scheduled to be held in October, is but an American trap to lead the Arabs to an all-out unconditional surrender under the slogan of peace for peace.

In an editorial headlined "A Peace Conference or Surrender Trap," the newspaper says the U.S. Administration is the party that is mainly responsible for the Palestinian people's suffering and the Arab nation's tragedies. It is generously supplying racist Zionism with money, weapons, and expertise, defending its crimes at the international level, and aborting any Security Council draft resolution condemning Israel. How then has this unjust administration become a peace advocate overnight?

It adds that it was the United States which remained silent over the martyrdom of more than 1,000 Palestinians since the eruption of the stone-throwing revolution in 1987 and is the one which denied Palestinian Leader Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States to address the UN General Assembly.

It points out that it was the U.S. Administration which led the military Atlantic aggression against Iraq because it changed the balance of power in favor of the Arab nation and employed all its capabilities to support the Palestinian revolution and the liberation of Palestine.

Concluding, the paper stresses that by proudly and fundamentally rejecting this trap of surrender, which has been carefully designed in the corridors of the U.S.-Zionist politics, Iraq is embodying the objectives of pan-Arab struggle and those of the Arab masses, which are identical to and interactive with its genuine objectives and principles.

Ramadan Leaves To Attend Libyan River Ceremony

JN2708144591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1406 GMT
27 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Aug (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, left Baghdad today for Libya.

In a statement to INA, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that he is paying this visit on behalf of leader President Saddam Husayn at the invitation addressed to his excellency from his brother Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi. Vice President Ramadan will represent Iraq at the Libyan people's celebrations marking the inauguration of the first stage of the Great River.

The vice president added that it is natural for Iraq to take part in its Arab brothers' celebrations on any strategic project and progress in any development field in any Arab country. He said this is because the Iraqi leadership believes that the positive results and future importance of any achievement in any particular Arab country go beyond that country and benefit all Arabs.

Taha Yasin Ramadan noted that Iraq's constant policy and serious contribution to any Arab action that serves the Arab nation reflect Iraq's pan-Arab principles and the course of the glorious 17-30 July revolution, which seeks to enhance Arab strength, progress, and development to counter all links of the multifaceted and multi-purpose plotting and aggression.

The delegation accompanying the vice president includes Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf and a number of other officials.

Further on Legalization of Religious Parties

JN2708133391 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH
in Arabic 25 Aug 91 p 1

[By Majid al-Lami from Baghdad]

[Text] The National Assembly endorsed the establishment of religious parties in Iraq and prohibited the launching of atheistic, racist, parochial, or anti-Arab parties. The bylaws of the parties that can be founded should be void of any conditions based on race or sect.

After lengthy deliberations in the extraordinary session, held yesterday morning in the presence of all Assembly members, the Assembly also approved the rule saying that the president of the Republic will determine the amount of the annual state grant to be given to the political parties. The amount of this grant shall be based on a party's membership, the number of representatives it has in the National Assembly, and its role in the national struggle.

National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih chaired the session, which was devoted to a discussion of amendments to six articles introduced to the political parties'

law by the Revolution Command Council—namely, Articles 3, 5, 15, 17, 18, and 24. He said: The amendments came in light of the current national and Arab circumstances and developments. Addressing the Assembly members, he added: These are substantial and basic amendments. We hope that the Assembly members will contribute to the deliberations regarding these amendments to help reach a sound opinion on them.

The issue was then debated. Chairman of the Legal and Administrative Committee Dr. Sultan al-Shawi read out the amendments, after which a number of assembly members expressed their opinions.

The National Assembly unanimously voted in favor of the proposed amendments. Article 3 stipulates that the political party's principles, objectives, and methods must be clear regarding respect for, and defense of, Iraq's independence, territorial integrity, sovereignty, and national unity. It also states that each political party should appreciate and be proud of Iraq's heritage, its glorious history, and the accomplishments scored during the national struggle, especially during the 14 July 1958 revolution and the great 17-30 July 1968 revolution. In addition, this article also states that political parties must not adopt hostile stands toward the Arab nation's legitimate ambition to consummate its liberation and also toward its efforts to achieve solidarity and Arab unity.

As for Article 5, it does not permit the establishment of political parties on the basis of atheism, sectarianism, racism, parochialism, or anti-Arabism. Besides, it stipulates that their bylaws should not include provisions based on race or sect.

With regard to Article 15, it provides that once it is established in accordance with the provisions contained in this law, the political party is allowed to issue a political newspaper or magazine or both, provided that the minister of culture and information is informed of this.

The second clause of Article 17 stipulates that political parties are prohibited from establishing direct or indirect links with any government agency in other countries, and that violators of this clause shall be punished by life imprisonment.

The second clause of Article 18 does not allow political parties to accept donations in cash or kind from any foreign party, society, organization, individual, or agency unless prior approval from the Council of Ministers is obtained. Violators of this clause shall be punished by life imprisonment. In all cases, all such foreign donations will be confiscated if a violation is committed.

Article 24 stipulates that the president of the Republic determines the amount of the annual state grant, mentioned in Article 23 of this law, to be given to the party according to the political party's membership, the number of its representatives in the National Assembly, and its role in the national struggle.

The National Assembly's Legal, Citizens' Affairs, Arab and International Relations, and Culture and Information Committees considered the amendments to these six articles, expressed their opinions and noted their remarks, and submitted them to the Assembly's extraordinary session.

Assembly Speaker Comments

JN2908092691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT
29 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih stressed that establishing religious parties on sectarian or racial bases would gravely harm Iraq's national unity, sovereignty, and independence.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, he said that Article 5 of the Political Parties Law was substantially amended. It now states that no political party based on atheism, sectarianism, racism, regionalism, or anti-Arabism can be established, nor can a party include in its bylaws any stipulations based on race or sect.

Originally, Article 5 stated that no political party could be established on the basis of mixing religion with politics or on the bases of atheism, sectarianism, racism, regionalism, or anti-Arabism.

The National Assembly speaker said Article 5 prevents any one from establishing parties on sectarian, racist, or chauvinist bases. The aim is to maintain national unity and avoid harming the composition of the Iraqi society, which consists of several religions, sects, and nationalities.

Mr. Salih explained that religion does not differentiate among people, and that all religions call for monotheism and united societies, especially the Islamic religion, which advocates tolerance and monotheism. There was fear that some may practice hostile political activity under the umbrella of religion or sect with a view to inflicting harm and sabotage. It is on this assumption that the last part of Article 5 was retained.

We have great hopes, he said, that nationalist figures—especially in the current circumstances of Iraq—will clearly understand the law and use all their energies and resources in the service of the country and the people, ignoring all other considerations such as personal ambitions and selfish desires.

The National Assembly speaker spoke about the constitution draft law saying that some amendments were introduced. But some proposals and remarks were made by party organizations, professional associations, and mass media, and these are currently being studied by a specialized committee.

If the committee finds need for amendments, Salih said, it will certainly make recommendations to that effect. The draft will then be amended before it is presented to the nation.

Ministry Source on Moves To Activate Agriculture

*JN2708133091 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT
27 Aug 91*

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 27, INA—Agricultural authorities began a few days ago a new move to foil the food embargo by reclaiming vast areas of land and cultivating thousands of arable land [as received] with rice and yellow corn, a source at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation said.

He said that 11,372 donums [2,500 square meters] were allocated for rice cultivation and 2,000 donums were prepared to grow yellow corn in al-Muthanna Province. 9,450 donums of that total had already been planted with the needed crops and the rest would be planted "very shortly".

The source explained that agricultural authorities in the province had distributed more than 74 tonnes of grain to farmers. They also provide them with 900 tonnes of urea fertilizer, and 200 tonnes of compound fertilizers. He said more amounts of fertilizers would be distributed to help farmers increase the crop.

The source said good amounts of fuel and lubricants were made available at the disposal of farmers to cultivate their own produce.

He said that in addition to rice, farmers of al-Muthanna Province began a drive to invest in all arable land there. They used some 5,000 donums for the cultivation of yellow corn, watermelon, tomato, melon, okra, aubergines and sesame.

As for marketing the already cultivated crops in the province, the source said that three granaries were opened to receive wheat and barley and facilitate all other marketing processes for the local farmers.

The source referred to the hardships that emerged in the wake of the American-allied aggression against Iraq and the acts of sabotage that were perpetrated by mobs and saboteurs.

He said that huge areas of land which were cultivated with wheat and barley were severely affected because of power cuts and sudden high water levels of river euphrates.

The source said that the crops and plants of some 4,713 donums were protected against diseases as farmers were supplied with different kinds of insecticides. As for the provincial forests, he said that good steps were taken to develop this part of agriculture and that different kinds of seedlings were produced to plan further areas of land.

He added that the agricultural authorities in al-Muthanna had dredged 36,600 cubic metres of al-Rumaythah river, 68,500 cubic meters of streams for summer season and cleaned 112 kilometres of main drainage canals. They also maintained power and diesel water pumping stations.

On land lease and fisheries, the source said that more than 185,000 donums were let to farmers to encourage the cultivation of different kinds of plants.

Telex Links With Outside World Reestablished

*JN2808141691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT
28 Aug 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—Iraq today resumed telex communications with other states in the world after a seven-month hiatus caused by the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression.

In a statement to INA, the director of the Telex Services Center affiliated with the State Enterprise for Communications and Postal Services said that the enterprise's technical cadres have reestablished international telex lines with the main switchboard, which was put into operation today. The main switchboard, with a capacity for 4,032 lines, covers all Iraqi governorates, he noted.

The director added that the cadres are continuing to work to expand international telex services, which will improve next week with the introduction of new international lines. He stated that telex services were reinstituted for most subscribers at state departments, the socialist sector, the mixed sector, and the private sector. He pointed out that two centers for public telex services were opened in Baghdad. He added that the centers give service to the public more than 12 hours a day. He went on to say that the centers charge the same rate they used to before the suspension of services.

In a related development, the director of the Telex Services Center said that the enterprise has begun efforts to introduce facsimile services at communications and postal departments and offices in all Iraqi governorates so that they can be used to send letters and cables domestically.

Ministry Demands Iran Supply Information on Arad

TA2808152291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1503 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Text] Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, just issued the following announcement: The State of Israel noted the statement given yesterday to THE ASSOCIATED PRESS in Beirut by a spokesman for the Amal organization.

Dani Nave said that this was the first time that the Amal organization publicly and clearly admitted that Israeli Air Force navigator Ron Arad had been transferred by Amal to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards for the sum of several hundred thousand dollars and is today being held in Tehran.

The announcement notes that Iran has unfortunately refused to admit this and is claiming that it has no information on the fate of Ron Arad. Israel is calling upon Iran to fulfill the elementary norms practiced by the international community and to give the UN secretary general reliable information regarding the fate of Ron Arad.

'Senior' Source Confirms Arad in Iran

TA2908074091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
29 Aug 91 pp A1, 4

[Report by Eytan Rabin, Shlomo Shamir, and news agencies]

[Excerpt] The information possessed by the defense establishment confirms the announcement by the Shiite organization Amal that captive Air Force navigator Ron Arad was transferred to Iran. This was stated by a senior security element. [passage omitted]

Baraq on Israeli Prisoners, Defense Budget

TA2808170691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1600 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Text] The chief of staff addressed the issue of the Israeli POW's and MIA's today. Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq said that the involvement of the United Nations and the Iranians' initiative to launch negotiations increased the chances of achieving results. The chief of staff nevertheless stressed that this was a very sensitive and complex issue and that so far there was nothing new to report.

Lieutenant General Baraq noted that Israel is facing many long-term threats such as missiles, chemical weapons, and the possibility that one of the Arab countries will achieve nuclear capability. In order to provide a response to Israel's strategic needs and the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] minimal operational requirements, we must receive an additional billion shekels in the 1991 budget year, the chief of staff said.

[Begin recording] [Baraq] We realize that the Finance Ministry, like the State of Israel itself, is confronting very serious problems. It has to handle immigrant absorption

and economic growth as well as defense and employment needs. Nevertheless, we are certain that the requirements we presented are the minimal operational and strategic needs of the defense establishment, and they require a billion shekel budget increment to the 1992 work year. If these sums are not endorsed, then obviously the country's security will be detrimentally affected.

[IDF Radio correspondent 'Ido Baum] What price could Israel have to pay if the sums you spoke about are not received?

[Baraq] I would not like to get into plastic descriptions of prices; however, it is clear that without the minimal means of response at its disposal, the IDF will encounter difficulties in implementing what is required of it when it is put to the test. These difficulties will be manifested in terms of response time, casualties, and other costs beyond what could have been accomplished by the State of Israel, and I am talking about what could be done within the limits of Israel's economic capabilities. [end recording]

The chief of staff added that the increment to the defense budget would lead to the creation of thousands of jobs in the defense industries. Baraq asserted that it was important that progress on the political process be accompanied by a strong IDF in the background.

The multiyear plan could be reexamined in another two or three years, when the situation regarding the political process became more clear, Baraq said.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 28 August in an interview with Chief of Staff Baraq by (word indistinct) affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe adds that when asked whether there had been any news on the Israeli prisoners in Lebanon the chief of staff said: "I do not believe that we will take any steps on this matter without receiving information on our POW's and MIA's." The chief of staff also notes that in the wake of the Gulf War the Arabs are "carrying out intensive efforts to purchase accurate long-range surface-to-surface missiles, with a variety of warheads." Therefore it is important that Israel "rapidly begin preparing its response to these challenges."]

IDF's Strategic, Operational Needs Noted

TA2908090291 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
29 Aug 91 p A3

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Excerpts] "If we do not receive a supplement of 1 billion shekels to the defense budget, it will be impossible to even begin to prepare the minimal answer to Israel's strategic and operational needs. This will substantively affect security," Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq said in a meeting with military correspondents yesterday. [passage omitted]

Strategic Needs

A. Arrow antimissile missile—This entails an expenditure of several billion shekels, partly in the coming budget years and mostly after 1995. The chief of staff yesterday expressed his hope that the Arrow system will have initial operational capability within five years. The missiles will be effective in intercepting ballistic missiles with both chemical and conventional warheads.

B. Early warning radar—the chief of staff mentioned the need for such a radar yesterday. This radar will be an integral part of the Arrow system and will provide it with early warning about the launch of missiles toward Israel. The Arrow system will also be equipped with a fire control radar, which will guide the missile to its target.

C. Intelligence satellite—a development of the Ofek satellite. This is a surveillance satellite which will provide Israel with strategic early warning especially for countries, such as Iraq, which do not have common borders with Israel. The Army's Intelligence Branch defines this satellite as a very vital need.

Operational Needs

A. Precision guided weapons or precision guided munitions [PGM]—Reference is to original Israeli development. If the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is equipped with a sufficient number of such weapons, they will increase its fire power and make it possible to win a war faster and with a relatively small number of casualties inflicted on our forces in contrast to a larger number of casualties inflicted on the enemy's forces. The IDF began developing these weapons years ago and now, at the procurement stage, it needs a great deal of money to purchase a quantity sufficient to influence the battlefield.

B. Precise target intelligence—In order to make effective use of the PGM, the Army needs the intelligence means to supply precise data, to the tune of millimeters, on the location of enemy targets. The power of the precision guided weapons lies in their ability to hit a point rather than an area target, and this requires suitable intelligence preparations.

U.S. Considers Dropping Memoranda of Understanding

TA2808185191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Text] The United States is considering giving up the attempt to draft memoranda of understanding with the countries who are to participate in the peace conference and the Palestinians and instead will send letters of intent to each of the participations, our Arab affairs

correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports. The reason is the difficulties it is encountering in its efforts to reach an agreement on the wording of the memoranda. This issue could be the main topic during the visit Secretary of State James Baker might make to the region after visiting Moscow in early September.

Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that the current view in Israel is that there will be no choice but to postpone the conference due to the lack of time and the need to find a solution to questions such as the Palestinian representation and the status of the USSR.

Sharon: Egypt Participating in Arms Race

TA2908043791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 29 Aug 91

[Text] Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon has accused Egypt of participating in the Middle East arms race. In a speech to Christian and Jewish activists from the United States Sharon, said the aim of the arms race is to attack Israel. The housing minister said there has been no change in the attitude of the Arab world toward Israel. He said peace can come to the Middle East only when the arms race is halted and the Arab world begins the process of democratization.

Arens Denies Linking Procurement to Sale of Lavi

TA2608094891 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Aug 91 p A8

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens yesterday denied the report published in several newspapers according to which the minister had said that Israel would only purchase planes from an American company that would help market the Lavi aircraft. The defense minister's media adviser said that Arens believes that the Lavi jet is the best of its kind in the world and that therefore aircraft manufacturers should be interested in producing the plane; however, the minister did not make the purchase of U.S. aircraft conditional on the production of the Lavi.

The Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] yesterday clarified that reports that "IAI sources have claimed that there is no practical basis or plan to revive the Lavi project" do not reflect the IAI's position. IAI management asserted that the IAI would not miss any business opportunity to renew production of the Lavi, if and when this becomes an option, after examining prospective purchasers and funding and following an orderly debate by the various levels of management in the company subject to the directorate's instructions.

Al-Nusur Views PLO Position on Conference

JN2708164291 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1540 GMT 27 Aug 91

[Text] Amman, 27 Aug (PETRA)—Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur stated that during their talks in Amman the day before yesterday, the Jordanian side led by His Majesty King Husayn and the Palestinian side led by President Yasir 'Arafat agreed on the need to try to reach a comprehensive rather than a partial solution to the Palestinian question. This solution is to cover all issues and include all parties at one time, stressing that this is a principal matter and that it is very important to keep this in mind from the very beginning.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA, he added that the two sides exchanged views and information on contacts held recently between the United States, and the Jordanians and Palestinians, regarding the proposed peace initiative. He also explained that the PLO had not yet made any decision concerning the formation of the delegation or the proposed peace initiative. He said both sides have agreed to continue coordination and consultations.

He added that Jordan and the PLO exchanged views on issues pertaining to the peace conference, invitations to the conference, what countries will attend, how the participating delegations will be formed, the duration of the negotiations, and the expected program for reaching a lasting and comprehensive peace.

Dr. al-Nusur stressed the need to hold a meeting of the Arab confrontational states at the highest level as soon as possible to formulate a joint Arab position on the regional peace efforts. He stressed that the Palestinian question is an Arab issue and that it is necessary to mobilize Arab support for it, to adopt a collective position.

Asked about the extent of the response to the idea of a meeting of the Arab confrontational states, Dr. al-Nusur said: We have not heard about any objection to the meeting, but some believe that it is too early to hold such a meeting, and that the Palestinians should be allowed to make up their own minds without any interference.

Regarding the recent developments in the Soviet Union and their effect on the peace conference, he said: In fact, there will be new procedures, including the appointment of a new Soviet foreign minister and an exploratory tour of the region by him, as the peace conference will be cochaired by the Soviet Union and the United States.

Magazine Says King Husayn 'Arafat Talks 'Failed'

NC2808175191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1552 GMT
28 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 28 Aug (MENA)—In its 30 August edition, the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR reports that King Husayn of Jordan and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat failed to reach agreement on anything during their recent talks in Amman. The magazine says that 'Arafat arrived with three demands:

1. That the PLO headquarters be moved to Amman.
2. That a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement be signed defining in advance the shape of the future relationship between the West Bank and Gaza Strip—that is, the Palestinian state—and Jordan.. This agreement would be binding on the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in any talks.
3. That King Husayn not make any concessions regarding the Palestinian revolution's rights.

AL-MUSAWWAR says 'Arafat also asked King Husayn to arrange a place for him to stay in Amman so that he could be on hand to follow up on matters.

The magazine notes that King Husayn did not like these demands at all, and the talks collapsed.

PFLP's George Habash Arrives From Damascus

JN2808102591 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
28 Aug 91 p 23

[Text] Amman—Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, arrived in Amman from Damascus yesterday.

Minister Says Israeli Airman 'Sold' to Iran

NC2808185091 Paris AFP in English 1835 GMT
28 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Beirut, Aug 28 (AFP)—An Israeli airman captured in Lebanon was sold for half a million dollars to Iran by the Shiite movement Amal, a government minister who asked not to be named told AFP here Wednesday, quoting the group's leader.

Nabih Birri, head of the pro-Syrian Amal and also a minister of state, said during a cabinet meeting a month ago that Ron Arad—captured by his militiamen in 1986—was "sold" by his security service chief, Mustafa Dirani, who split from the movement in 1988 and allied himself with the pro-Iranian Hizballah fundamentalists.

Birri failed to say whether the Israeli was transferred to Iran or kept in Lebanon by Iranian Revolutionary Guards in the central town of Ba'labakk, which is under Syrian control.

Birri said after a news conference Wednesday in southern Lebanon that Amal was holding the bodies of two Israeli servicemen and that he had some of their personal effects.

"We're not prepared to offer anything for free, particularly to Israel," he said reacting to comments from Israeli officials.

Earlier Israeli Defense Ministry spokesman Dani Nave asked Iran to tell U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar about the fate of Ron Arad. [passage omitted]

Birri Offers To Exchange Remains of Two Israelis

NC2808194691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1915 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri has offered to exchange the remains of two Israeli soldiers for Arab detainees held by the South Lebanese Army. Birri, however, repeated his demand that Israel release 28 women held at the al-Khiyam detention camp before he would allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to examine the bodies.

'Awn Departure to France Via Cyprus 'Confirmed'

NC2908060491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0515 GMT 29 Aug 91

[Text] The news of the departure of General Michel 'Awn and his two colleagues, Ma'luf and Abu-Jamrah, for France via Cyprus has been confirmed. According to a high-level French source, the departure took place at about 0445 today on board a French boat which sailed from the al-Dubayyah area.

Al-Hirawi Meets Visiting French Delegation

NC2808194291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1915 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi met this evening with the French delegation discussing the arrangements for the departure of General Michel 'Awn, Brigadier Gen. Edgar Ma'luf, and Colonel 'Isam Abu-Jamrah from the French Embassy.

These arrangements are shrouded in total secrecy, which also surrounds the timing and point of entry for 'Awn's entry into France.

What is certain, however, is that in line with the cabinet's decision, Gen. 'Awn, Brig. Gen. Edgar Ma'luf, and Col. 'Isam Abu-Jamrah must leave the country within 48 hours after the pardon decree is signed.

President al-Hirawi visited Latakia earlier today where he met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad who will visit Egypt soon to discuss the Arab stance on the peace conference. There are moves afoot to hold an Arab conference in Cairo to be attended by the countries participating in the Middle East peace conference.

Karami Comments After Meeting

NC2808114591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1030 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Statement by Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, followed by remarks in response to a question by an unidentified correspondent, after meeting with visiting French delegation on 28 Aug—recorded]

[Text] Naturally, in the wake of all the developments that have taken place—whether on the legislative level or during yesterday's cabinet meeting—the French delegation came to offer thanks and to reaffirm the distinguished and excellent relations that exist between Lebanon and France.

We had a wide-ranging round of talks covering all pending issues between our countries. An understanding was reached on all the issues that were raised. The basic issue is that these historical relations must be clearly and genuinely translated into deeds on the diplomatic and other levels, regardless of whether they involve aid. We believe that the implementation of Resolution 425 is the basic and important subject. France, represented by its envoys who attended the meeting, has been extremely responsive to all these matters.

[Question] France has linked aid to Lebanon to 'Awn's release. Has this issue been resolved?

[Karami] We have too much dignity to respond to a question like that. Lebanon has dignity, and we explained this to the delegation. We told the delegation that the Lebanese crisis is not only an internal problem but also the result of regional and international conflicts for which Lebanon paid dearly and is still suffering. We, therefore, urge the entire international community to

help Lebanon, especially in rebuilding its infrastructure. As I said in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday, if aid does not come—and we will not seek it at the expense of our dignity—we will work within our own capabilities and reconstruct Lebanon by improving the state's revenues. If we have to do this, we will suffer even more, but that would be much easier for us than losing our dignity.

Bomb Found Under Beirut Overpass Dismantled

NC2808163491 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon*
in Arabic 1620 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Text] Police Sapper Sergeant Major Muhammad Idris dismantled an explosive device that had been placed under one of the pillars on the Fu'ad Shihab overpass leading to Bisharah al-Khuri Street in Beirut at 1730 today. The TNT bomb, weighing 150 kg, was attached to four anti-tank mines.

Karami Leads Delegation To Libya

NC2808122591 (*Clandestine*) *Voice of the Mountain* in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami left Beirut airport for Tripoli aboard a private Libyan plane at 1400 today leading an official delegation at the invitation of Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi to participate in the inauguration of the Great Manmade River celebrations. We note that Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin, whose name was mentioned as member of the official delegation formed by the cabinet, is currently holding a news conference.

Birri Criticizes Government, Promises Decision

NC2908104591 (*Clandestine*) *Voice of the Mountain* in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 29 Aug 91

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri announced that the Amal Movement's Central Council will meet tomorrow, Friday, to take a clear stand on whether to boycott the government or resign from it. In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, Birri said that the Lebanese delegation's visit to Libya is considered a

challenge not only to the Shiite community but to all Lebanese because Imam al-Sadr [leader of the Shiite community in Lebanon who became missing while on a visit to Libya on 31 August 1978] is for all Lebanon. This move comes at a time when the Israelis and the Americans are pressuring our people through the hostage issue and the situation in the south. Birri added: I feel that we are being bought and sold.

Answering a question regarding his return to the government, Birri said: The situation is very difficult. I do not want to shanghai the decision of the brothers in the Amal Movement. Birri described the present government as having become a government of idols whose decisions are made outside the cabinet, adding: This government only exists in name. It is applying neither the old nor the new constitution. Our position on this government will be made clear soon.

Israeli Academy in Cairo Requests Newspaper Ban

NC2708120291 *Beirut AL-SHIRA* in Arabic
26 Aug 91 p 35

[From "To and From Egypt" page]

[Text] AL-SHIRA' learned that the Israeli Academic Center in Cairo filed an application requesting the Egyptian Government and the higher council of the press issue a decision banning the newspaper "MISR AL-FATAH" as one of the elements trying to damage Egyptian-Israeli relations.

MISR AL-FATAH earlier published documents proving the Israeli academy's involvement in spying against Egypt. It had also published lists of the names of Egyptians associated with the academy.

AL-SHIRA' learned that the academy plans to sue "MISR AL-FATAH", first through a lawsuit against the academy driver who sold the documents, and second by filing a lawsuit against the newspaper's chief editor, Mustafa Bakri, and journalist 'Adil al-Sanhuri, who wrote the article.

Afghanistan

Rebels Blame Gorbachev for Lack of Settlement

BK2808124991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1215 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Aug 28 (AFP)—The Afghan mujahedin blamed Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Wednesday for not following through on his Afghanistan policy, adding that a meeting with Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin could be held.

Although there has not yet been a response to Yeltsin's year-old invitation to the president of the Afghan Government in exile, Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, a meeting could take place soon, a spokesman for the rebels told AFP.

Najibollah Lafraie said he believed the invitation, delivered in August 1990 by Iona Andronov, who was sent by Yeltsin to negotiate the liberation of Soviet soldiers held by the rebels, was still valid.

"The emergence of this courageous man is a happy sign," Lafraie, the rebel government's information minister, said.

"The Russian president always said he would not allow the central (Soviet) government to use the resources of Russia to supply the Kabul regime" which the rebels have been battling since the late 1970s, Lafraie added.

"We hope that those in the Soviet Union who supported this policy have been removed or will be removed and the new leadership would decide to stop interference and open a new chapter with the Afghan nation."

Lafraie said Gorbachev "had the courage to admit the mistakes and to talk of a bleeding wound," a reference to the 1979 Soviet invasion and Gorbachev's decision to withdraw Soviet troops which was completed in February 1989.

Despite the withdrawal, the government of President Najibollah remains highly dependent on Soviet arms, fuel and other aid.

"He did not follow up," Lafraie said of the embattled Soviet leader. "Either he was not sincere or there were forces who did not let him implement his ideas."

The future of the Soviet Union is an "internal affair," Lafraie added, saying "it is up to the people of the republics to decide their future. The Afghans want the right of self-determination. The others can ask for it."

He said the Afghans "played an important role" in changing values in the Soviet Union, contributing to the democratic changes that swept that country and its former Eastern European allies, "although we have not benefitted, (unlike) the others."

He said the rebels were ready to stop fighting "if there is a just solution which gives a government corresponding to the aspirations of the Afghan nation."

If the Soviets stopped supporting Najibollah he would automatically be replaced, Lafraie said.

Prime Minister Khaliqyar Meets Indian Envoy

LD2708170591 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Aug 91

[Text] The press department of the prime minister reported that the prime minister, esteemed Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, received His Excellency Manbiar, the ambassador and representative-extraordinary of the Republic of India, this morning. The prime minister talked about expanding the economic and technical cooperation between the two countries during the meeting. He expressed the interest of Afghan Government for assistance and for the purchase of primary consumer goods including wheat, sugar, cooking oil, and meat from the Republic of India.

The ambassador of the Republic of India in Kabul expressed the readiness of his country to provide Afghanistan with primary consumer goods. He promised that in a few days, after contacting the authorities, he will present the necessary information to the Afghan authorities.

India

Remote Sensing Satellite Successfully Launched

BK2908093091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 Aug 91

[Text] A message just received says the second Indian remote sensing satellite, IRS-1B, was successfully launched from the Baykonur cosmodrome in the Soviet Union at 1230 today.

No Government Plans To Recognize Baltic States

BK2808144891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Text] There is no move by India to recognize the three Baltic states which have declared independence from the Soviet Union. This was stated by the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry while responding to questions by newsmen in New Delhi today. The spokesman said New Delhi will not act on the request till the Soviet republics and the union have reached some agreement.

The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has received a letter from the Soviet president, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, informing him about the return of the legitimate government in Moscow. Mr. Rao in a message to Mr. Gorbachev had expressed satisfaction on his safe return to Moscow.

Solanki Receives Bangladesh Foreign Minister

BK2808155991 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Mr. Mustafizur Rahman, now in New Delhi, had a meeting with his Indian counterpart, Madhavsinh Solanki, Tuesday [27 August]. During the meeting, Mr. Rahman said with the elected governments in both the countries, there are now no issues which could not be solved through dialogue, if there exists the political will to solve them. Referring to Tin Bigha, he said an excellent situation now prevails for its transfer to Bangladesh. The two countries should move forward to mutually-beneficial areas of cooperation on tribal refugees in India. These people, he said, must have gone there due to some mistakes and misgivings. About the Ganges water issue, the foreign minister said as the dry season is approaching, it has become urgent to reach a mutually agreed basis for sharing the waters of the common rivers. Bangladesh would also like to resume negotiations on delimitation of maritime boundary at the earliest possible time. A proposal in this regard will be sent to the Indian side in due course and the question of joint survey of Talpatti island will also be taken up. Mr. Mustafizur Rahman said India can also play a [word indistinct] very important role in the economic development of Bangladesh.

Reciprocating the Bangladesh foreign minister's statement, Indian Foreign Minister Solanki said his country is to (?assume) important role in Bangladesh's economic development on the basis of equality, and good neighborly and friendly relations. He said some issues may be solved right now and some may be solved later, while new issues might crop up. All such issues, Mr. Solanki said, should be solved through friendly negotiations. He said the most immediate issue is Tin Bigha. India's commitment is sincere and determined. It will be given top priority and necessary action is being taken to hand over Tin Bigha to Bangladesh. The Indian foreign minister said that the Bangladesh Government's approach on tribal refugees is constructive and hoped it will soon be possible for them to return to their homeland.

Commentary Welcomes LTTE Peace Talk Offer

BK2808113391 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Commentary by A. Karuppaswamy, All India Radio Colombo correspondent: "New Peace Prospects in Sri Lanka"]

[Text] The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, LTTE, the most powerful fighting group waging war for a separate state for the Tamils in Sri Lanka, has come out with readiness for suspending militant operations. It has also agreed for peace talks if the tourism and rural industries minister, Mr. Thondaman, comes to Jaffna. This follows the recent effort of Mr. Thondaman to send an emissary to Jaffna for consultations with LTTE leaders for a fresh move for negotiations. The effort is not in vain. The

political adviser of the LTTE, Mr. Balasingham, made it clear to the journalists at the party headquarters, Kondavil in Jaffna, that if the minister is really genuine in finding a lasting solution to the ethnic problem, the LTTE would not stand in his way. He said the LTTE is always ready for such talks if the negotiations are unconditional.

The LTTE offer does not seem to be anything new from what they have been saying all along for unconditional talks. What is new is the direct response by the LTTE to the call of the tourism minister, Mr. Thondaman, for peace efforts by a responsible LTTE leader ever since the beginning of the Eelam war II on the 11th of June last year. Mr. Thondaman and for that matter most of the Tamil parties are glad at the positive response of the LTTE to the call for eschewing violence and pursuing peace path. The minister is not rushing to Jaffna as expected by observers. On the other hand, he is marshalling his resources and good offices to cooperate with the Sri Lankan Government which has just appointed a parliament select committee to work out ways and means for negotiations with LTTE for a lasting solution to the ethnic problem. The 43-member select committee has been appointed for immediate action for finding a lasting solution and to end the mindless war and killings in the island. The interesting feature is that the chairman of the committee is the very person who submitted in parliament the motion calling for government action to end the war. This is the first time that an opposition member belonging to the Sri Lankan Freedom Party has been appointed chairman to a select committee.

The one-year war has taught enough lessons to Sri Lankans that if the war is allowed to continue any more, the future of the nation will be (?embittered) on several grounds. Much depends upon what emerges out of the deliberations of the select committee on ways and means of resolving the issue. The general public, especially the Tamils, felt relieved to some extent at the positive response of the LTTE for peace talks. The Sri Lankan Government has been saying that it is always ready for talks with LTTE provided the militants eschew violence and be prepared for negotiations with other political parties. It has also been made very clear that no further relaxation on some conditions would be considered for LTTE and that if any peace move is to be initiated, it should come from the LTTE as the ball is in their court. With the latest offer of peace talks by the LTTE, the ball seems to have moved to the government court.

The suggestion and offer of Mr. Balasingham to Mr. Thondaman to come to Jaffna for talks suggests another change of situation. The LTTE has made it clear that if at all there are any talks for peace, the peace meeting should be at Jaffna and not in Colombo. Their leaders fear that after the failure of 14 months of protracted negotiations in Colombo before the start of the current war in June 1990, things are not safe for them in Colombo. Hence, their demand for a change of venue of future talks from south to north.

What is needed under these circumstances is mutual trust and confidence for a sincere and concrete attempt for a solution to bring peace and prosperity to both parties and the nation as a whole. The offer of peace talks by LTTE after a severe beating at Elephant Pass should not be interpreted as a deliberate move to gain time for renewing war at a convenient time in future. On the other hand, the government should respond with some magnanimity from a source of strength to invite the militants for a lasting solution. This is one more opportunity for resolving the much eluding problem of the island. If this opportunity is also lost, as the earlier ones, it shall be a costly mistake, portending greater calamities than hitherto experienced by the country and militants.

Supreme Court Upholds Bofors Case Report Legality

*BK2708090391 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0730 GMT 27 Aug 91*

[Text] The Supreme Court has upheld the legality of the FIR [First Information Report] filed in the Bofors case. A division bench comprising Mr. Justice S.R. Pandiyan, and Mr. Justice K.J. Reddy also quashed the Delhi High Court order issuing suo moto show cause notices to the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] and the union government to show cause why the FIR should not be quashed. The bench described the High Court finding as strange and said the detailed order will be issued later.

The court, however, upheld the High Court order in quashing the petitions by several political parties, including Janata Dal, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] and the Congress-S, seeking impleadment in the case. The bench held that none of the political parties or even third parties, including individual petitioners, have the locus standi to seek impleadment in the case. The court also asked the CBI to proceed with its probe. It held as lawful and legal the letter rogatory issued by an Indian court to Swiss authorities seeking assistance in the probe.

With today's judgment, all legal obstacles in the path of the Bofors investigations have been removed. Swiss authorities had made it clear that if they did not receive the views of the Indian apex court before 31st of this month on the legality of the letter rogatory and the Bofors FIR, they would defreeze six secret accounts suspected to be containing the pay off in the case.

Judgment Sent to Geneva

*BK2808043691 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 28 Aug 91*

[Text] The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] is to send a copy of the Supreme Court judgment in the Bofors case to the Swiss Cantonal Court in Geneva for further action. The Supreme Court yesterday in its judgment allowed the CBI to continue the investigations and also quash the Delhi High Court's order in this regard. It may be recalled that the Cantonal Court in Geneva had declined on 23 January this year from

proceeding further in the Bofors Case till the Supreme court decided on the validity of the letter of rogatory sent to Switzerland.

Commentary Lauds Supreme Court Order

*BK2808071991 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 28 Aug 91*

[Commentary by K. Nagraj Sabhapati of PRESS TRUST OF INDIA: "On Legal Hurdles Cleared in Bofors Case Probe"]

[Text] The Supreme Court has put an end to the plethora of legal crippling created by public interest litigation on the Bofors case by upholding the legality of the FIR [First Information Report] and the letter rogatory by India to Swiss authorities seeking assistance in the probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation [CBI]. The apex court's order yesterday has cleared all legal hurdles in the path of smooth investigation of the Bofors Case which would have died a natural death as the Swiss Cantonal Court had made it clear that it cannot give permission for investigation unless the Indian court will clear on the legality of the FIR and letter rogatory. The Bofors Case has been hanging fire since 1986 when the Swiss Radio announced that top Indian politicians and public servants had received pay offs in the purchase of the 155-mm howitzer gun deal.

The scandal created an uproar in parliament and outside with Mr. V.P. Singh, a one-time ministerial colleague of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, making it an election plank to come to power. The V.P. Singh government registered an FIR in the case but the investigation got bogged down due to legal hurdles both in India and Switzerland.

Both the Chandra Shekhar and Narasimha Rao governments made all possible efforts to pursue the probe seeking an end to the legal quibbling through the Supreme Court. The division bench comprising Mr. Justice S.R. Pandiyan and Mr. Justice K.J. Reddy have stated in unequivocal terms that neither any political parties nor any other persons except the accused could seek impleadment in the investigation under the garb of public interest litigants. By declaring the letter rogatory and the FIR valid, the apex court has stepped in to prevent the Swiss authorities from carrying out their intention of defreezing the six secret bank accounts suspected to be held by the beneficiaries of the Bofors pay off.

The Swiss Court had indicated a few months back that if the Indian court did not pronounce clearly on the validity of letter rogatory and the FIR before 31 August this year they would remove the blocking order on the frozen accounts.

The union government had told the court during the 34-day hearing that it apprehended miscarriage of justice if the judgement was not pronounced before the August 31 deadline as the beneficiaries would withdraw the large funds running into millions of dollars. Even the new

government at the center had reaffirmed the statement of the previous government and requested that the CBI should be allowed to proceed with the probe without any interruption or hindrance. As per the brief facts of the case, the apex court have been called upon to decide whether the Delhi High Court order questioning the legality of the FIR and letter rogatory was in accordance with the law and also whether third party intervention by political parties and persons could be allowed. The court has termed as strange the High Court's finding challenging the legality of the FIR and letter rogatory. It has described as convoluted and strange reasoning the High Court's order issuing suo moto notices to the union government and the CBI asking them to show cause why the FIR should not be quashed. It has held that this finding cannot be sustained. The court has held that the FIR and letter rogatory stand unaffected and can be proceeded with in accordance with the law.

Iran

Musawi: Hizballah Holding Two Israeli Captives

LD2908085891 Tehran IRNA in English 0701 GMT
29 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 29, IRNA—Visiting Secretary General of the Hizballah of Lebanon Seyyed 'Abbas Musawi said here Wednesday that since the beginning of the hostage problem in Lebanon the U.S. has been trying to capitalize on it for political purposes rather than try to solve it.

He said the U.S. wants to have a pretext for political maneuvering at its own will, and that it prefers to keep the issue in abeyance so that it will continue to take advantage of the situation.

He said when the Americans talk of hostages they mean only the Western hostages, because in their opinion the Muslim hostages do not count as hostages because their blood is not quite as much worth as the blood of Western hostages.

The secretary general of the Hizballah who arrived here last Thursday heading a delegation said any time the U.S. bids the Israelis to free the Muslim hostages in their custody, the Muslim hostages would be set free and the hostage issue would come to its end once and for all. He said the Hizballah of Lebanon has two Israeli soldiers as captives. They were captured in 1986, he said.

Mousavi said the mideast peace conference as introduced by the United States is a pro-Israeli plan which serves to promote solely the expansionist policies of Israel.

He said the main topic of his talks with the Iranian officials thus far has been how best to neutralize the U.S. scheme for a Mideast peace plan. Musavi said he had conferred with the Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati three times.

He added the Hizballah of Lebanon would never lay down arms. The Hizballah, he said, stepped up its struggle against the Zionist regime when it was told by the Lebanese Government to lay down arms.

Further on Musawi Remarks

NC2908082691 Paris AFP in English 0758 GMT
29 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Tehran, Aug. 29 (AFP)—The Lebanese Shiite movement Hizballah is holding two Israeli soldiers as prisoners, Hizballah leader 'Abbas Musawi has said here.

Musawi, in remarks summarized by the Iranian news agency IRNA, stressed that once the United States pressures Israel to free its Muslim prisoners the Middle East hostage question would be settled once and for all.

IRNA said Musawi confirmed earlier reports that Hizballah held two Israeli soldiers, describing them as "captives" seized in 1986.

Hizballah's deputy secretary general, Shaykh Na'im Qasim, on Monday announced that the movement was holding two Israeli servicemen but would not say if they were alive or dead. [passage omitted]

President Addresses Joint Majles-Cabinet Session

NC2908065291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT
29 Aug 91

[Text] Majlis deputies and the cabinet discussed the country's problems and the Five-Year Plan during a joint session last night.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressed the group, explaining the country's various problems and discussing in detail the progress being made on the Five-Year Plan in industry, agriculture, energy, and finance.

The president called for an increase of national morale and determination in order to progress in the era of reconstruction and he emphasized the importance of accord and unity between the government and the Majles in the advancement of affairs.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Fostering accord among the country's administrative groups will result in a more healthy atmosphere and more success in implementing programs. This will benefit the people, the deprived, and the destitute, the president said, adding that a radical solution of problems will herald a good future for the people. He said that it is not prudent to hamper this bright future with rash and unprogrammed solutions.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani called on the Majles deputies to carry out a careful scientific study of the government's record, adding: The government is ready to seriously confront any problem or violation in view of the committed management in the country's executive affairs. The president clarified: We will be more effective and

successful if requests and expectations are coupled with logical and constructive proposals.

The president said: Today we have put the phase of initiating production behind us because we have entered the phase of improving production. In addition, we have begun talking about methods of distribution.

Pointing to the specialized reports by executive organs, he stated: Activities are progressing on the basis of programs in the correct direction. In conclusion, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked the Majles for its perseverance and its support of and cooperation with the cabinet.

Several deputies spoke about various issues before the president's remarks during last night's session.

Unrest Caused by 'Discontent', 'Disgust'

NC2508080891 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 24 Aug 91

[Text] Dear listeners: According to reports we have received, the situation in most of the Iranian cities, especially the larger ones, is not normal.

In some Iranian cities there recently have been bazaar and theater fires and bomb explosions stemming from the people's discontent and disgust with the mullahs' regime.

The regime has declared a state of alert in these cities because of these incidents, but even then it has not been able to prevent the proliferation of disenchantment and revolutionary loathing and anger among the people.

Not a day goes by without some sort of clash between the people and the repressive forces of the regime, or a blaze in some public place in Iran's larger cities. For example, on 12 and 13 August a theater in Ahvaz was set ablaze. There is no report of casualties or material losses from this incident.

The people of Khorramshahr recently attacked the residence of the regime's Friday imam in that city, but his guards fired on the people and it has been said 12 people were killed on both sides and that the imam's house and two vehicles were set on fire. In the course of this clash, the Friday imam fled and hid.

According to reports, on 12 and 13 August there were clashes between the people and law enforcement forces in Dezful, and as a result, people set ablaze some committee premises and vehicles and eight of the regime's mercenaries were killed.

The people also suffered casualties, but no precise report is available.

Martial Law Reportedly Imposed

NC2708112591 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Reports received by the Voice of Iranian Kordestan indicate that the situation in Iranian cities is abnormal and that the people are resorting to various methods to express their dissatisfaction and disenchantment toward the clergymen ruling Iran.

One report states that Zanjan is one of Iran's most tense cities. On 25 Mordad [16 August] extensive demonstrations began there. Even though the regime's armed men tried their best to prevent these demonstrations and unrest, they eventually surrendered to the people's determination. The demonstrators chanted slogans against the clerical regime and set fire to several banks and government vehicles. Following these demonstrations, the regime imposed martial law in Zanjan and established check posts on roads leading to the city and inside the city, thereby establishing strong control.

The situation in Tehran is extremely abnormal. Following the fire at the Tehran bazaar the regime is terrified and the people are being closely scrutinized.

On 19 Mordad [10 August] the people rose in unison to protest the regime through demonstrations. The regime's mercenaries poured into the streets and neighborhoods of Takestan to disperse the demonstrators, but the people continued their demonstrations. The inhuman elements resorted to the use of arms and fired on the demonstrators killing several citizens, including children. Martial law has been imposed in Takestan.

If the introduction of martial law and the use of arms to shoot defenseless people asking for bread, freedom, democracy and the removal of the ruling clergymen were useful, the shah's regime could have stayed in power. But we saw how the raging wave of the dissatisfied and wrathful people forced the shah's army, which was armed to the teeth, to kneel down and brought victory to the Iranian masses. Neither the clergymen nor any other government can continue to rule without taking the people's wishes and determination into consideration and will finally have to surrender vis-a-vis the people's unity and solidarity.

The Iranian masses are well aware of how to make dictators and arbitrary rulers kneel down. We hope that all the Iranian people will unite to overthrow the inhuman regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Yazdi on Readiness To Fight Corruption

LD2608223591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Mr. Yazdi head of the judicial branch, spoke at a meeting of the high-ranking officials of this branch today. While paying tribute to the illustrious martyrs

including the martyr Raja'i and martyr Bahonar, termed the programs of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cabinet as constructive, adding: We think the work has progressed and the ministers of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cabinet have all been successful in their departments.

The head of the judicial branch also thanked Justice Minister Mr. Shushtari for his valuable services in the administrative and financial fields and for creating rational and suitable links between the judicial branch and other branches.

In another part of his remarks, referring to the recent speech delivered by the leader of the Islamic revolution at a meeting of the Supreme National Security Council, Mr. Yazdi said: The recent speech and instructions of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i put a heavy burden of responsibility on the shoulders of the state officials and the people.

The head of the judicial branch, while welcoming the timely instructions of the leader of the Islamic revolution, announced this branch's readiness to take appropriate action and a legal stand against instances of social corruption. He stressed: We shall not refrain from taking any appropriate measure to fight the instances of corruption in society.

At the conclusion of this session, the spokesman in charge of implementing clause three from Article 158 of the Constitution presented a report on the matter.

President on Confronting 'Cultural Onslaught'

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[Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, chairman of the Supreme Cultural Revolution [SCRC], today received members of the central council of the Islamic association of educators. He stressed the need for profound cultural planning and work for the young, and spoke of the task as a serious duty incumbent on everyone.

The president said: The Islamic revolution is based on a cultural revolution, and enemies are trying to weaken and undermine it by an organized cultural onslaught inside and outside the country. In order to solve this problem, we must create an immunity among the susceptible ranks of society so that they are not harmed in any way by this cultural onslaught; because our enemies at home and abroad are well aware of the role of culture, and it is natural that they will target the main point of our society, which is Islamic teachings and culture.

The chairman of the SCRC said that society's cultural problems cannot be considered in isolation from other matters, especially socio-economic ones; nor can isolated solutions be found for them. He added: All matters must advance together. The president stressed: The fundamental task is to create ideological and mental resilience among our youth. And what is expected from the cultural community is that it should adopt a more profound approach to the problem. In other words, while maintaining appearances, the root must be addressed; confronting the impudent people who are trying to pollute the social environment must, of course, also not be neglected; boundaries must be observed [as heard]. [passage omitted]